■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

PDI man in Hollywood parties with Liza Minelli at Toronto film fest

■ NEWS / A2

GMA still wants implementation of entire VAT law

■ TALK / A12

How Filipino consumer is spending in these critical times

■ LIFESTYLE / D1

Bibeth Orteza: Laughter is bigger than the Big C

The last movie, last book, then quiet wake for Haydee

By Mariano A. Santos
Contributor

CHICAGO, IL—WHO WOULD THINK THIS was a wake for a highly respected and much loved former Philippine official?

The wake for Haydee Yorac, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Gov-

THE LAST/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Hagedorn says what GMA won't admit about jueteng

By Norman Bordadora

"I WON [THE ELECTIONS] because of jueteng," declared anti-jueteng czar and Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday.

HAGEDORN/ A6

SINO PANG TATALO SA JUETENG KUNGDI ANG NANALO SA JUETENG?
SAAN KO KA MGA BA?

US envoy warned of coup

LIVING IN A FISHBOWL
Creatures of the sea flourish mightily in the pristine waters of idyllic Boracay. Which is why the island has become a magnet for thousands of tourists. Which in turn has raised a problem in paradise—mountains of garbage and what to do with it. But this is just one of the problems confronting an increasingly favorite playground. AFP

Mussomeli report may be one of FBI stolen files

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED STATES EMbassy said in a report last April that President Macapagal-Arroyo's public support had faded and that it had been told elements in the Armed Forces were planning to move and force her into resigning, according to a document obtained by the INQUIRER yesterday.

The embassy said that "imprecise" information it had received also suggested that Ms Arroyo might try to use her hardcore supporters outside the military, who could be armed, to thwart any coup attempts against her.

These were some of the points mentioned in the April 15, 2005, intelligence assessment prepared by then US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli and sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, only weeks before the "Hello Garci" tape scandal and a Senate inquiry into alleged "jueteng" payoffs plunged the Arroyo administration into its worst political crisis.

The paper said that deposed President Joseph Estrada seemed to have benefited "substantially" from Ms Arroyo's waning popularity.

US Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop said no comment when the INQUIRER contacted the embassy.

Mussomeli is now the US ambassador to Cambodia. He left Manila last month. Days before he left the country, he told reporters that while there was always disgruntlement in the military, "I don't believe there's any risk now of any military coup. Put it at close to zero."

The Mussomeli paper referred to what it said were rampant rumors at the time that a coup attempt could occur "as early as May 2005." Titled "Philippines: Public Unease Growing," Mussomeli's intelligence assessment could be one of the estimated 100 classified FBI files allegedly downloaded by the FBI's Filipino-Ameri-

US ENVOY/ A4

Two Filipinas find home in land of endless war

By Ruben G. Alabastro

SPECIAL REPORT

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—SHE WORKS 5,600 km away from home in a compound that looks like a fortress. Wherever she goes, she keeps a 2-way radio with her because her office wants to be sure she is safe always.

Home for Veronica Umera Qureshi is Malvar, Batangas, and when she is in a karaoke party in Kabul, she croons the song "Journey," about a traveller who roams the earth, flitting from sorrow to bliss.

She cried the day she heard Fernando Poe Jr. had died.

A mother of two, Veronica works as a human resource administrative officer in the heavily sandbagged compound of the Joint Election Management Board, a poll watchdog run by United Nations and Afghan officials to supervise Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections after 25 years of brutal wars.

TWO FILIPINAS/ A6

TRACING THE TRAIL OF THE TAPE

The problem is Isafp chiefs report directly to GMA

By Fe Zamora

(Conclusion)

An I-TEAM *Report*

AWARE OF THE EQUIPMENT GIVEN BY the United States in the latter part of 2003, retired and active officers of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) pooh-poohed the flat-out denial of Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, Isafp chief, that his group had the technical knowhow and the equipment to wiretap.

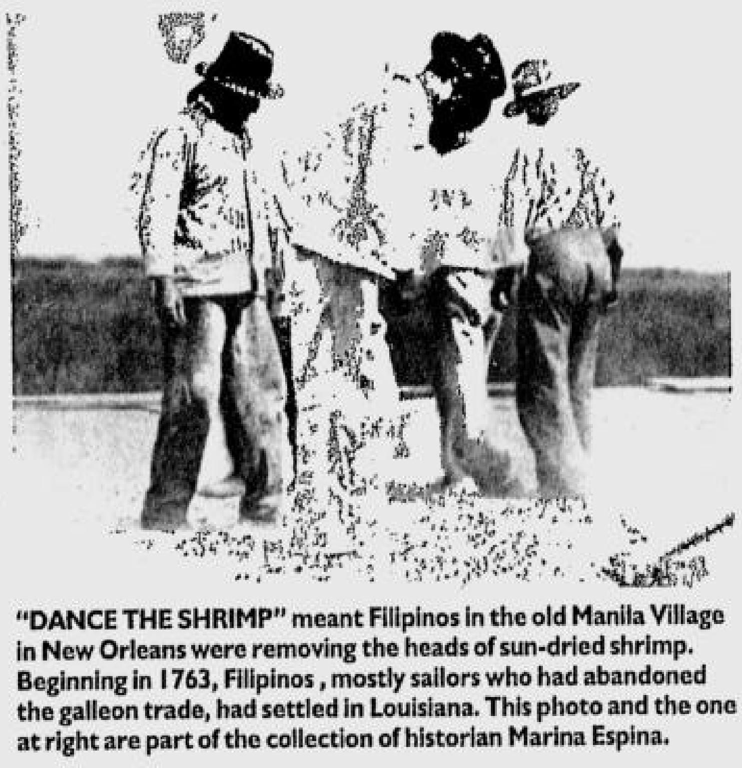
In fact, the Isafp would appear to have been regularly upgrading its monitoring equipment, from the analog system acquired in the '90s, to the digital interceptor acquired sometime in late 2001.

Shortly after the appointment of Quevedo's predecessor, Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, the latter conducted a briefing for a group of former Isafp chiefs. One of them recalled Danga crowing about "new equipment from the United States that could be used to monitor suspected terrorists."

The problem with Isafp, said an INQUIRER source, was the practice of Isapf chiefs and other ranking officials reporting directly, or getting orders directly, from the commander-in-chief or from persons close to the President. The source noted that this "practice" was

THE PROBLEM/ A6

History of 'Manilamen' of New Orleans lost to 'Katrina'



"DANCE THE SHRIMP" meant Filipinos in the old Manila Village in New Orleans were removing the heads of sun-dried shrimp. Beginning in 1763, Filipinos, mostly sailors who had abandoned the galleon trade, had settled in Louisiana. This photo and the one at right are part of the collection of historian Marina Espina.

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

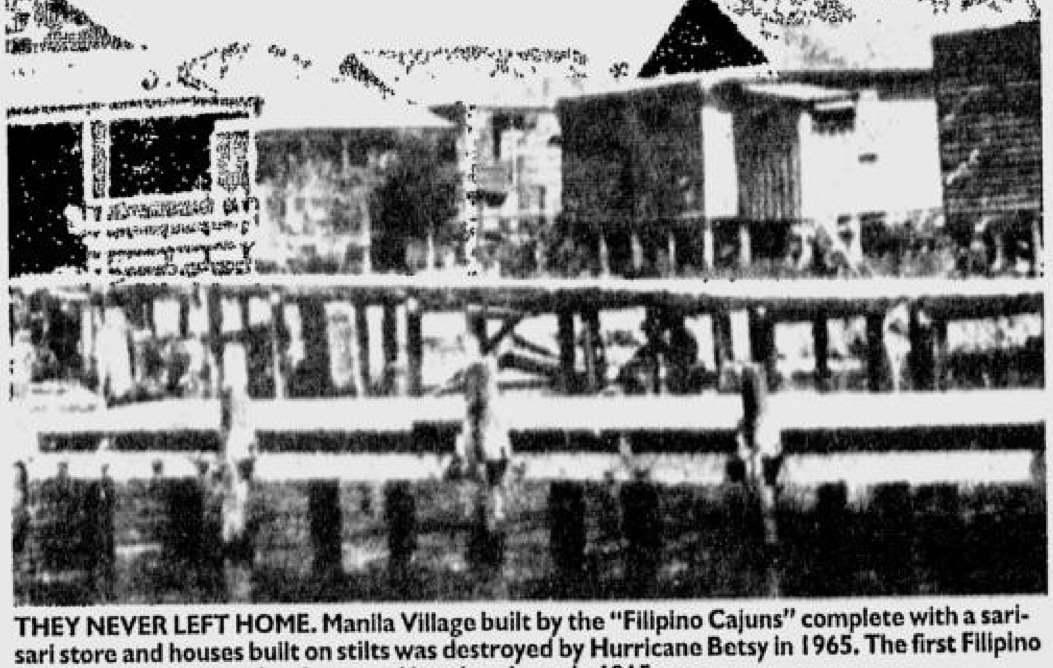
BAGUIO CITY—WHEN HURRICANE KAtrina battered New Orleans early this month, the floods it spawned may very well have also destroyed valuable documents chronicling the exploits of Filipinos who had settled in what is now the United States more than two centuries ago.

An e-mail from the Filipino-American National Historical Society (FANHS) based in Seattle, Washington, said the home of historian Marina Estrella Espina and her husband, Cipriano, in New Orleans had been submerged in water.

"They may have lost everything—and we as Filipino-Americans will share in their loss because 40 years of tedious research on the 'Manilamen' was in their home. Her research was the foundation of Filipino-American history," FANHS said.

FANHS, founded by Fil-Am historian

HISTORY/ A4



THEY NEVER LEFT HOME. Manila Village built by the "Filipino Cajuns" complete with a sari-sari store and houses built on stilts was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy in 1965. The first Filipino village, St. Malo, was also destroyed by a hurricane in 1915.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/09/18/05

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONT PAGE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

GMA for full VAT package

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY REITerated her stand that the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law be implemented fully amid proposals from legislators to defer the 10-percent VAT on oil and electricity.

"(The new revenue law) should be implemented in its entirety if we are able to achieve our economic reform and deficit reduction goals in a timely manner," President Arroyo said in a statement issued by Malacañang.

Ms Arroyo said the full implementation of the law would enable the government to finance vital infrastructure projects to promote growth and to provide social services such as in health and education.

Malacañang issued the statement to clarify a report that the President was amenable to the deferment of the VAT on fuel and electricity provided this was initiated by Congress.

Ms Arroyo's key allies in Congress, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda and Sen. Mar Roxas, have filed separation resolutions in the House and Senate respectively seeking to defer implementation of the tax measure on fuel and electricity.

In her statement, Ms Arroyo said the executive branch "realizes that it is the prerogative of Congress to decide on these exemptions, and we will implement the law accordingly."

But she cautioned Congress that if it should decide to exempt fuel and electric power from VAT, "then we hope they will seriously consider the significant implications for our country in the international financial markets and limit the scope of these exemptions."

Ms Arroyo assured the public the government had adopted various measures to cushion the impact of the VAT on the people, the poor particularly.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero yesterday said the opposition would still question the law's constitutionality before the Supreme Court despite the President's supposed willingness to defer the VAT on petroleum products and electricity,

Escudero said they had asked the high court to set aside its ruling of Sept. 1 upholding the VAT law's constitutionality.

"It's good that she herself has finally admitted that the VAT is ill-timed. But (deferral) is not enough. We will push through not simply with deferral of some provisions but with the repeal of the law altogether," Escudero said.

The President on Friday told American businessmen in New York that she welcomed proposals to delay the VAT's implementation on oil and electricity.

Salceda said lawmakers would take up the matter when Congress resumes session tomorrow.

However, Salceda said the deferral of the VAT on power and oil could take effect only after the Supreme Court lifted its temporary restraining order against the law's implementation.

"I think the trigger will be the lifting of the TRO. We cannot defer something that has not been implemented," Salceda said.

But opposition lawyer Eugenio "Toto" Villareal said he expected the TRO to remain until the high court resolve their motion for reconsideration.

Villareal said they want the high court to declare the VAT law unconstitutional since it contains provisions that did not originate from the House as required by law.

"All tax bills should originate from the House but this law contains provisions on excise taxes, percentage taxes and income taxes that came from the Senate," Villareal said.

He said that the "no pass through" provision that barred power and oil companies from passing tax increases on to consumers was also deleted in the bicameral conference committee although both the House and Senate versions of the law had it.

Villareal said they would also question the law's provision giving the President standby authority to increase the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent, saying this was a usurpation of legislative authority. *With Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Gov't, MILF resolve ancestral domain issue

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday said peace was finally within reach in Mindanao as she welcomed the breakthrough achieved in the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The two panels just concluded the 9th exploratory talks held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Sept. 15-16 where they were able to resolve the ancestral domain question, the most contentious issue in the negotiations.

In a statement, the President expressed the hope the two sides would be able to sign an accord on ancestral domain before the end of the year, and thus pave the way for the opening of formal peace talks and, eventually, a peace agreement soon after.

"I am glad at the strong breakthrough in the GRP-MILF peace talks in Kuala Lumpur," Ms Arroyo said. She is expected back home today after attending the World Summit and the United Nations Security Council meeting in New York.

In a joint statement, the government and MILF said the latest round of talks ended Friday "with the parties successfully concluding the most difficult hurdle in the ancestral domain agenda."

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Afable and MILF head negotiator Mohagher Iqbal signed the joint statement.

"With this breakthrough, the peace process is on track to complete the ancestral domain agenda before the end of the year," the statement said.

It did not say, however, how the two sides had resolved most of the issues concerning ancestral domain. It also did not say when the next round of talks would be held.

In Kuala Lumpur, a Malaysian official confirmed the resolution of key differences over territorial rights and ownership of resources.

"There will be more meetings, but a final peace agreement is very much on track," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Malaysia has been mediating peace talks between Manila and the MILF, which has been fighting for more than two decades to set up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

Manila and the MILF signed a ceasefire in 2001 and opened peace talks but one of the stumbling blocks was the rebels' demand for recognition of their "ancestral domain," or areas once inhabited by Muslims in Mindanao.

Officials previously said recognizing Muslims' "ancestral domain" might infringe on existing property rights and areas under the jurisdiction of local governments. *With AFP, AP reports*

Floods, slides leave 7 dead

FLOODS, LANDSLIDES AND A BOAT accident following days of heavy rains have left at least seven people dead, officials said yesterday.

The Office of Civil Defense said the flooding affected more than 25,900 people, including 2,242 who had to be evacuated from their communities in seven Luzon provinces and Metro Manila at the height of the rains.

The civil defense office said 43 villages in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija were still under water on Saturday.

Officials of Muntinlupa City said the body of a 24-year-old man—who had been swept away on Friday by a swollen creek along with his two nieces aged 1 and 2—was recovered under a bridge near his riverside shanty.

The younger girl's body was later found in a lake that the river empties into. Coast Guard divers were searching for the other child.

Amphibious vehicles rescued two four-year-olds, including a sister of the two missing children.

Officials blamed garbage-clogged drainage canals for the quick rise and slow retreat of floodwaters in Metro Manila.

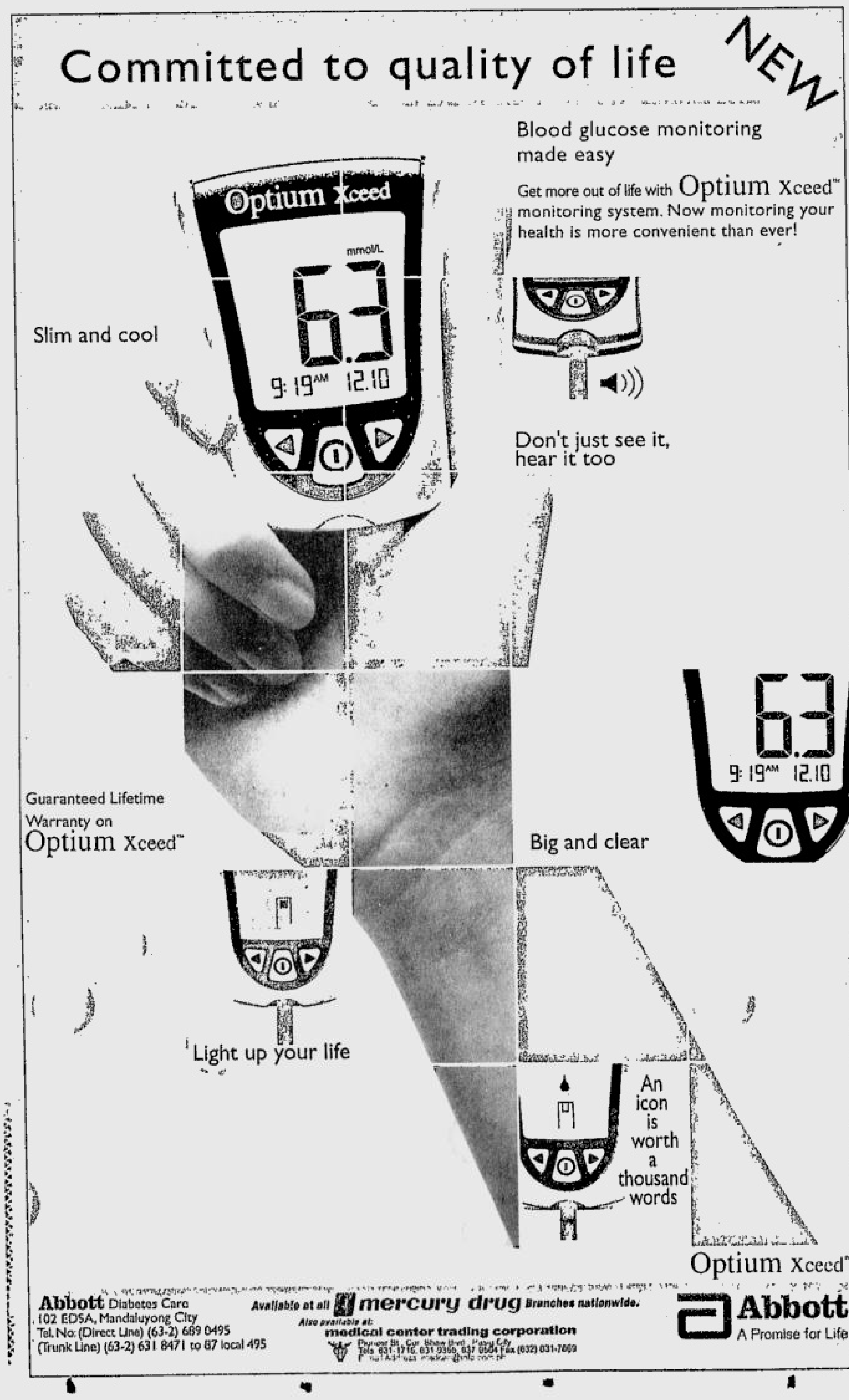
Civil defense spokesperson Anthony Golez said a 13-year-old boy, his 5-year-old sister and a 33-year-old woman were buried by a landslide early Saturday in Banaue, Ifugao province.

Vicente Tomazar, OCD regional director, identified the victims as Clifford Domingong and his sister Adrialeen.

The children were buried in mud when rescue workers reached the wreckage of their house along a road in Barangay Taman after 4:30 a.m., said Tomazar.

Rescue workers were still searching for Minda Bucbucalon who was buried with the children, Tomazar said.

Golez said the bodies of two teenaged girls, missing after a boat capsized in rough waters in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, were recovered Saturday. Seven students on the boat were saved, he said. *AP; AFP; Vincent Cabreza, PDI N. Luzon Bureau*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'Imelda got gems as gifts'

By Desiree Caluza and Vincent Cabreza, *PDI N. Luzon Bureau,* **and Alcuin Papa**

BAGUIO CITY—FORMER BEAUTY QUEEN Melanie Marquez has said she would testify for Imelda Marcos to stop the Presidential Commission on Good Government from auctioning off the estimated $10-million jewelry collection seized from the former first lady.

The actress, who arrived here on Friday to be one of the judges in the Miss Tourism Baguio pageant, claimed to have witnessed King Hassan II of Morocco giving Marcos gifts of jewelry in the early 1980s, supposedly proof that Imelda did not acquire the collection through graft or other illegal means.

"I saw the small box that the king gave to Mrs. Marcos. She opened it and showed it to us. It contained bracelets, earrings, rings and a necklace. There were huge emeralds and the center [of the setting held] a diamond," Marquez said in Filipino.

She said it was not right for the government to take the jewelry from Marcos who, she told reporters, "worked hard to promote this country."

The PCGG, the agency tasked with recovering the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his family and cronies, announced last month that it intended to auction off the entire jewelry collection seized from Imelda valued at $10 million.

On Thursday, Marcos asked a Manila court to issue an injunction against the PCGG auction, claiming the jewelry belonged to her, with some pieces being family heirlooms.

Three international auction houses are bidding for the right to sell the Marcos collection—Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams. The UK-based Bonhams has proposed an international road show of the collection before the auction to drum up interest in the pieces.

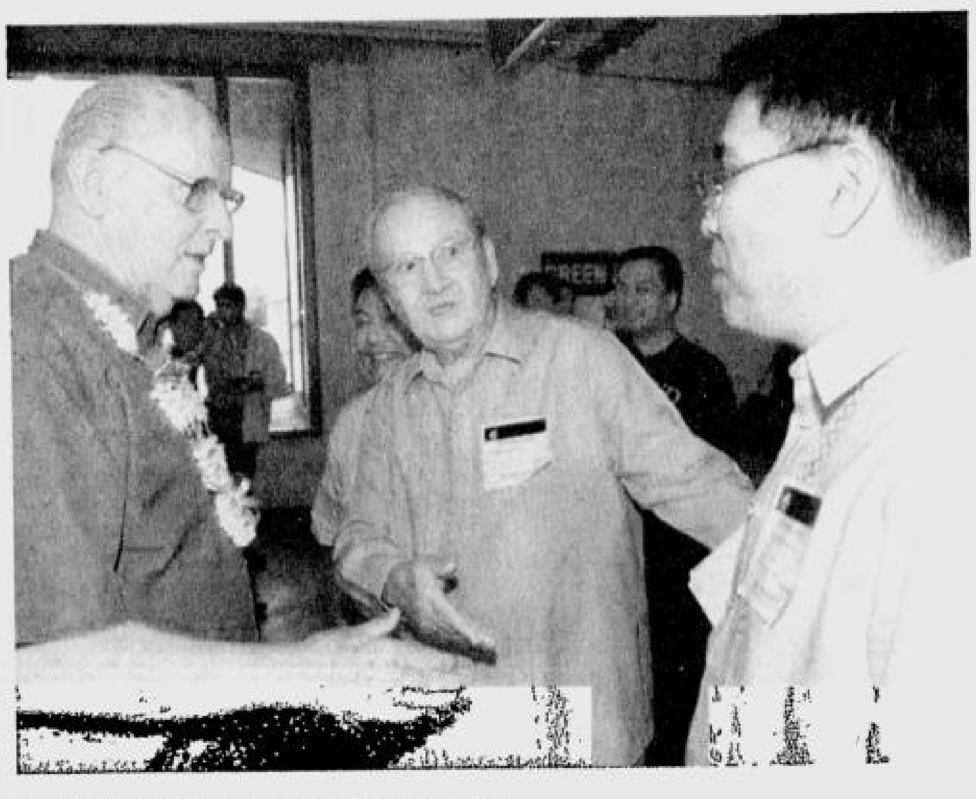
In a proposal to the PCGG, a copy of which was shown to the INQUIRER, Bonhams intends to take the collection to such cities as Los Angeles, London, Paris, Geneva, Hong Kong and Dubai. This is to be preceded by an advertising campaign in the most prestigious international publications.

Marquez, who won the Miss International title in 1979, said Imelda had received gifts from various international leaders during the years that she toured the world with entertainers, models and businessmen in tow.

She said Imelda was just as generous, handing out to her hosts lavish Philippine-made gifts.

Marquez said she did not mean to disparage the people who ousted Marcos with her revelations.

"I am not politicking… I am not a [Marcos] loyalist, I am only giving the credit which is due her," Marquez said.



OF THERAPIES AND TREATMENT

The "Father of Therapeutic Community Modality Treatment" Msgr. William O'Brien (left) is welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Ambassador Miguel Perez-Rubio (center) and Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo. O'Brien will discuss drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation at the forum sponsored by the Philippine Federation of Therapeutic Communities at Hotel InterContinental in Makati City on Monday.

ROGER MARGALLO

December test run eyed for Naia 3

By Nikko Dizon

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUthority (Miaa) said Friday it was eyeing a test run of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 in December before making the controversial facility operational by January 2006.

At a press conference, Miaa General Manager Alfonso Cusi said the airport authority would hold a "soft opening" with a simulation of terminal operations and the activation of all its systems such as baggage conveyors, X-ray machines, passenger bridges, and customs, immigration and quarantine inspections.

Cusi also said the Miaa would be giving international airlines their lease contracts for Naia 3 by the end of September.

Cusi told reporters the recent buyout by Manila Hotel Corp. of German airport operator Fraport AG's shares in Naia 3 would not be a factor in the scheduled test run.

He said the ongoing arbitration cases between the government and Fraport AG and the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) were issues separate from the operation of the airport terminal.

"Remember we were supposed to open last June? When that was delayed, we didn't stop working. We quietly continued to work (on preparations to open Naia 3)," he said.

Cusi appealed for "everybody's cooperation" to get the terminal open by January.

"What we're hoping for is for everybody's cooperation. Everybody is desirous of having Terminal 3 opened," he said.

But in a separate interview, the Naia 3 project manager appeared to be more cautious about the test run.

"Once the legal issues are settled, then we can activate the system and try to do a simulation," Florencio Montalbo Jr. said, without elaborating.

Gov't phone bill surges to P3.7B

THE COMMUNICATION BILL OF THE GOVernment surged to P3.724 billion in 2004 due mainly to the increased use of mobile phones by various government agencies, government-owned and -controlled corporations and local government units.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday said this was 14 percent or P447 million higher than the P3.277 billion communication bill incurred in 2003.

Communication expenses include postage, landline, mobile phone, Internet, cable and telegraph use.

Last year, national agencies shelled out some P1.897 billion in communication expenses, up from P1.666 billion in 2003; GOCCs, P1.116 billion from P967 million, and LGUs, P710 million from P644 million.

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, attributed the rise in communication expenses to the increase in mobile phone expenses of various government agencies.

The mobile phone bill of the national government agencies shot up from P168 million in 2003 to P251 million in 2004; while LGUs more than doubled their expense from P72.6 million in 2003 to P163 million in 2004.

The Commission on Audit's report, which Recto used as a basis for his findings, however, did not contain a breakdown of the communication expenses of GOCCs.

"But it is safe to assume that more techno-savvy friends in the GOCC sector increased their mobile phone use," Recto said in a statement.

While telephone bills were steadily rising, expenses for postage declined, with the national government shelling out P176 million in 2004, down from P199 million the previous year, and the LGUs disbursing P21 million last year, down from P25 million in 2003, for stamps, Recto said.

He also noted that a growing number of government offices were "hitting the information highway" to transmit communications.

The LGUs' Internet subscription costs tripled to P19 million in 2004 from the previous year, while the national government agencies' subscription expenses rose by 25 percent to P159 million in 2004. *TJ Burgonio*

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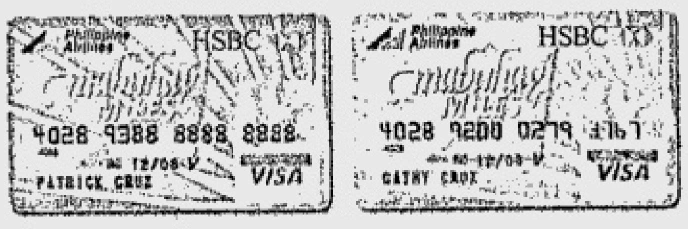

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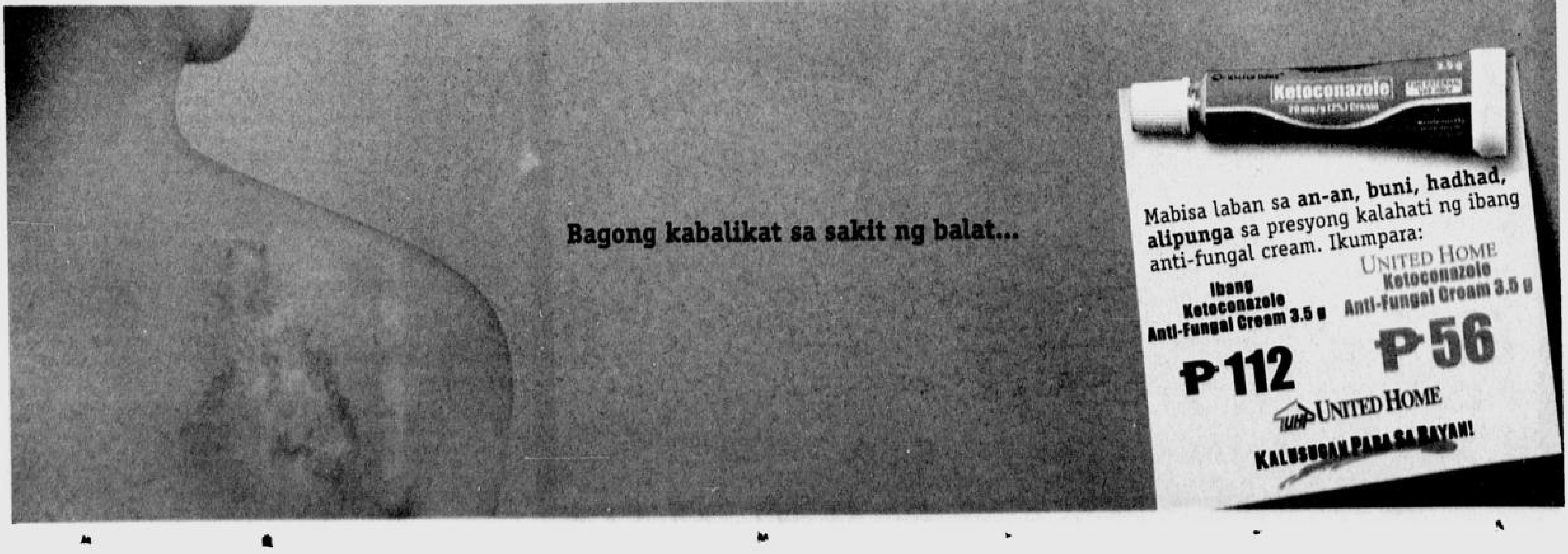

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History of 'Manilamen' ...

From page A1

Fred Cordova, said the Espinas were now safe at the home of their daughter, Rose, in Lafayette, some 160 km east of New Orleans and 64 km past Baton Rouge, the Louisiana state capital.

"Both Espinas are uninjured. However, their house near the University of New Orleans, by Lake Pontchartrain, is under water. Marina Espina's valuable research is thought to be totally lost," the message said.

According to Marina Espina's research, the first Filipinos to arrive in the United States settled in the marshes around New Orleans where they became known as "Manilamen" or "Filipino Cajuns." They were crewmen who had jumped ship from Spanish galleons as early as 1763 and settled along the bay areas of Southern Louisiana.

These Filipino settlers built their houses on stilts above the water and worked as shrimpers, fishermen and trappers and left their mark in the local culture. They taught the Americans how to drink tuba (coconut wine) and dance "the shrimp," a way of stomping on sun-dried shrimp (*hibe*) to remove their heads.

'Tuba and hibe'

In addition to tuba and hibe, the Manilamen, who used vinegar and garlic to make fish last for days, also introduced *paksiw* to the local cuisine. The dish continued to be served in New Orleans restaurants right up to the time Hurricane Katrina struck.

One of the better-known descendants of the Manilamen was boxer Bernard Ducusen who, as the "Filipino Cajun," became a top contender for the world welterweight title but failed to wrest the crown when he lost by decision to champion Sugar Ray Robinson in a 1948 bout in Chicago.

The Manilamen's first village, known as St. Malo, was destroyed by a hurricane in 1915. "Manila Village," with its sari-sari and shrimp stores, was destroyed by Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

Now it seems their memories have been drowned by the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

Espina, who came from Cebu, arrived in the United States in 1967 and became a librarian at the University of New Orleans. It was there that she discovered the lives of those early Filipinos in the United States along with evidence of how they founded St. Malo, located in the marshes of Lake Borgne in St. Bernard Parish County, 48 km from New Orleans.

Apart from St. Malo and Manila Village, other early Filipino settlements were Alombro Canal, Camp Dewey, Leon Rojas, Bayou Cholas and Bassa Bassa. The villages were largely hidden away, and the Manilamen initially lived in seclusion.

'Tagalas from P.I.'

Writing in the March 31, 1883, issue of Harper's Weekly, Lafcadio Hearn, a famous traveler at the time, observed of the "Manilamen," whom he also called "Tagalas from the Philippine Islands":

"The place of their lacustrine (pertaining to a lake) village is not precisely mentioned upon maps, and the world in general ignored until a few days ago the bare fact of their amphibious existence. Even the US mail service has never found its way thither, and even in the great city of New Orleans, less than 100 miles (160 km) distant, the people were far better informed about the carboniferous era than concerning the swampy affairs of this Manila village."

A WELL-KNOWN descendant of the "Manilamen," Bernard Ducusen fought as the "Filipino Cajun" and lost in a decision to Sugar Ray Robinson for the world welterweight title in 1948. MARINA ESPINA COLLECTION

In her book "Filipinos in Louisiana," Espina wrote that Filipinos started arriving in Louisiana about 1763. A boat was reportedly unloading cargo at New Orleans when a group of Filipino sailors fled toward a cypress swamp. The Spaniards did not pursue the Filipinos for fear of being eaten by alligators.

For years after that, Filipino crewmen on galleons plying the Manila-Acapulco trade route would jump ship upon reaching Mexico and travel up the Gulf of Mexico to the growing Filipino settlements in Louisiana.

Numerous oral and historical accounts on the Manilamen show they fought alongside the colonials in the American Revolution and participated in the American Civil War.

Espina collected photos of Manila Village on Barataria Bay in Louisiana and did research on eight generations of these Filipinos in New Orleans.

Visual proof

"Marina has been one of the most active and productive members of FANHS. She was the second national president, was featured in our video 'Filipino Americans: Discovering Their Past for the Future,' and had spoken at most of our conferences—including the 1998 mini-conference in Manila which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American war and its subsequent impact on Filipinos," wrote Dorothy Cordova, Fred Cordova's wife.

Recalling Espina's first presentation to FANHS in the late 1970s, Dorothy Cordova said: "The slides she brought to show us and the research she shared blew us away. Here was visual proof that Filipinos created and settled several villages where they worked as shrimpers, fishermen and trappers. At first, the villages were all male enclaves. Eventually, the men married local women of other races and raised families which to this day have strong ties to those "hidden villages."

Many of the Manilamen's descendants now bear Caucasian features, Cordova noted.

With Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

US envoy warned of coup

From page A1

can intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo and sent to several personalities in the country.

The FBI has arrested Aragoncillo and former Philippine National Police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, to whom Aragoncillo had supposedly passed on the files, on espionage charges. Aquino's lawyer said his client had not breached any US law.

"The broad support that Macapagal-Arroyo enjoyed following her inauguration last year has faded and public frustration with the economy, corruption and the stalled efforts at reform have taken their toll on her standing," the paper said.

The paper was also prepared in the wake of a nationwide transport strike that even had the US diplomat mentioning in the report that its effects "might persuade the military to move...."

"With the impending unification of the opposition groups, Embassy Manila suggests that Estrada seems to have benefited substantially from her declining ratings," read the report prepared by the top American diplomat in the country at the time.

The report also quoted US Embassy sources as saying that a trusted emissary of Ms Arroyo had been sent to visit Estrada in detention at his Tanay, Rizal, estate to ask the deposed leader "to lower his politicking."

Erap has 'highest rating'

"Despite being incarcerated for almost four years, Estrada still maintains the highest popularity ratings in the country," the report said. "He equates legitimacy with popular support and his intention to revive the pro-Estrada fervor has already produced destabilization rumors."

"Reports from the US Defense Attache's Office suggest [the coup plotters] are planning an undefined 'military operation' involving elements from all four services that is intended to intimidate Macapagal-Arroyo into resigning," the report said.

The paper, however, admitted that US agents in the Philippines had "little information" on the composition and plans of the "mid-level military coup plotters."

"Rumors are rampant but vague, though the latest have officers moving against Macapagal-Arroyo soon, possibly as early as May 2005," the report said.

It mentioned Ms Arroyo as having supporters—who could likewise be armed—whom she could count on aside from an "unreliable military."

"Information on Macapagal-Arroyo's hardcore supporters, including how well armed or organized [they] are, also is imprecise. Some reporting suggests, however, that Macapagal-Arroyo may depend on these groups rather than his (sic) unreliable military to defend her government," the report said.

Two takeover scenarios

It also mentioned two scenarios involving a military takeover as having "imminent potential."

The first one involves the opposition goading Ms Arroyo into declaring a state of emergency, "prompting the military—unwilling to repress citizens of any political stripe—either to refuse or to turn against the President."

The second involves a "general strike" by those against her.

"Alternatively, if Macapagal-Arroyo responds to the strike by calling her own supporters into the streets to confront the opposition violently, the military could act against her in the name of restoring order," the report said.

The Mussomeli report also widely quoted from the findings of the Social Weather Stations survey at the time.

"Political infighting, social disorder and, above all, economic uncertainty have left the Filipinos increasingly anxious about the direction their country is taking, according to the latest SWS survey," the report's first sentence read.

The report also mentioned the SWS findings at the time that Ms Arroyo was not the only one to suffer a dip in popularity but also the legislature, judiciary, military and the police.

The paper also included a comment on Filipinos wanting sweeping electoral reforms at a time when the "Hello Garci" tapes —the alleged recorded conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on poll results manipulation—had yet to be exposed.

Controversial envoy

"In the aftermath of recent elections, polling by SWS indicates that only 44 percent of the Filipino population is satisfied with democracy, leading many commentators to believe that the public is ready to endorse sweeping—and badly needed—electoral reforms," read Mussomeli's report.

Mussomeli easily became controversial during his stint as the US Embassy charge d'affaires when he once told the media that Mindanao was facing a scenario similar to Afghanistan when it was controlled by terrorists.

Michael Ray violated no US law, says lawyer

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW YORK—THE UNITED STATES Attorney General has no case against ex-Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino since he has not violated any US laws, American lawyer Mark A. Berman said Friday .

Berman told the INQUIRER that his client was innocent of espionage charges slapped against him by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The Attorney General has a weak case against my client," said Berman, a court-appointed counsel for Aquino and an attorney at the Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger and Vecchione law offices.

"He's not guilty, and he will plead not guilty to the two counts of espionage charges," the lawyer added.

He was referring to the twin charges of acting as an agent of a foreign official without notification of the Attorney General, and knowingly communicating classified information by a government employee to an agent or representative of a foreign country.

The last movie, last book...

From page A1

ernment, was held on Sept. 14 at the Smith-Corcoran Funeral Parlor in Glenview, a suburb north of Chicago.

Yorac, 64, had died of kidney failure and other complications of ovarian cancer on Sept. 12 at St. Francis Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Her remains were supposed to be cremated before being flown back to Manila but the plans changed.

On Friday, Margot Yorac and Stella Auto, with her husband Bert, accompanied the remains of their eldest sister Haydee on her final journey home, where funeral arrangements befitting a respected public servant await.

[Yorac's body was expected to arrive in Manila last night from Los Angeles, via Northwest Airlines. The wake will be at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park starting today.]

In Glenview, there were no more than 30 mourners praying a novena at the wake. Only a dozen cars were parked outside the funeral home.

Photos were casually posted on the wall with transparent tape. A few were of Yorac's childhood and college days. Many were of her vacations in Vancouver and Arizona. Some of the larger pictures came unglued and fell to the floor before the wake was over.

There was a color photo of Yorac being sworn in by President Macapagal-Arroyo—the only giveaway that she was once a Philippine official.

White lilies

There was also the presence of Philippine consulate officials headed by Consul General Blesilda Cabrera. They brought the only wreath in the funeral parlor, as well as the Philippine flag that draped the coffin. A spray of white lilies silently watched over Yorac.

One consulate official said they were not even aware that Yorac had been in the area. They were surprised when Philippine media called to confirm the news of her passing.

Laetitia Chua, Yorac's private nurse, said they arrived in the Chicago area on June 17. They had been staying with Yorac's sister Stella in Wilmette, Illinois.

Another sister, Margot, who is also a Chicago area resident, had quit her full-time job as a registered nurse two years ago to help care for Yorac, who had been diagnosed with cervical cancer.

Margot, who is single, said Yorac visited them in Chicago every year. She related that her sister would stay with them the whole time and never went out.

"If she went out at all, it was to Barnes & Noble (a bookstore). She loved books. Sometimes she would see a movie with us."

The last film they saw was "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

Chua said Yorac rarely turned on the TV for news of home.

"I think it was because it depressed her. I would see her shaking her head when she watched or heard news about the Philippines," Chua said.

Reading Clinton

"Her favorite TV shows were 'Law & Order' and 'CSI' but she spent most of her time reading. She was reading 'My Life,' the autobiography of Bill Clinton," she added.

Chua talked about Yorac's last days. "Ma'am Haydee was a fighter," she said, her eyes misting. "She didn't give up easily. When she started to become weak, I asked her if she wanted a respirator and she answered with a loud 'Yes.' Her mind was clear to the very end."

She also recalled the many text messages Yorac received from friends and officials in Manila. "Fely Arroyo (the wife of Sen. Joker Arroyo) was always asking about her condition. (Sen.) Jun Magsaysay wanted to know what he could do to keep Ma'am well. I believe they asked other officials to pitch in to help with the medical expenses so we could move her to St. Francis," Chua said.

Yorac was confined at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Illinois, for one week before she passed away last Monday.

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front-page story—"UN security cools ardor of GMA 'hakot' crowd"—mistakenly included Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus in the list of congressmen who had gone to New York City for Ms Arroyo's speech before the United Nations assembly.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on page A17—"Religious tour to Korea"—misstated the name of the priest who will lead a pilgrimage to Korea. The priest is Fr. Jerry Orbos—not his brother Oscar Orbos.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, Fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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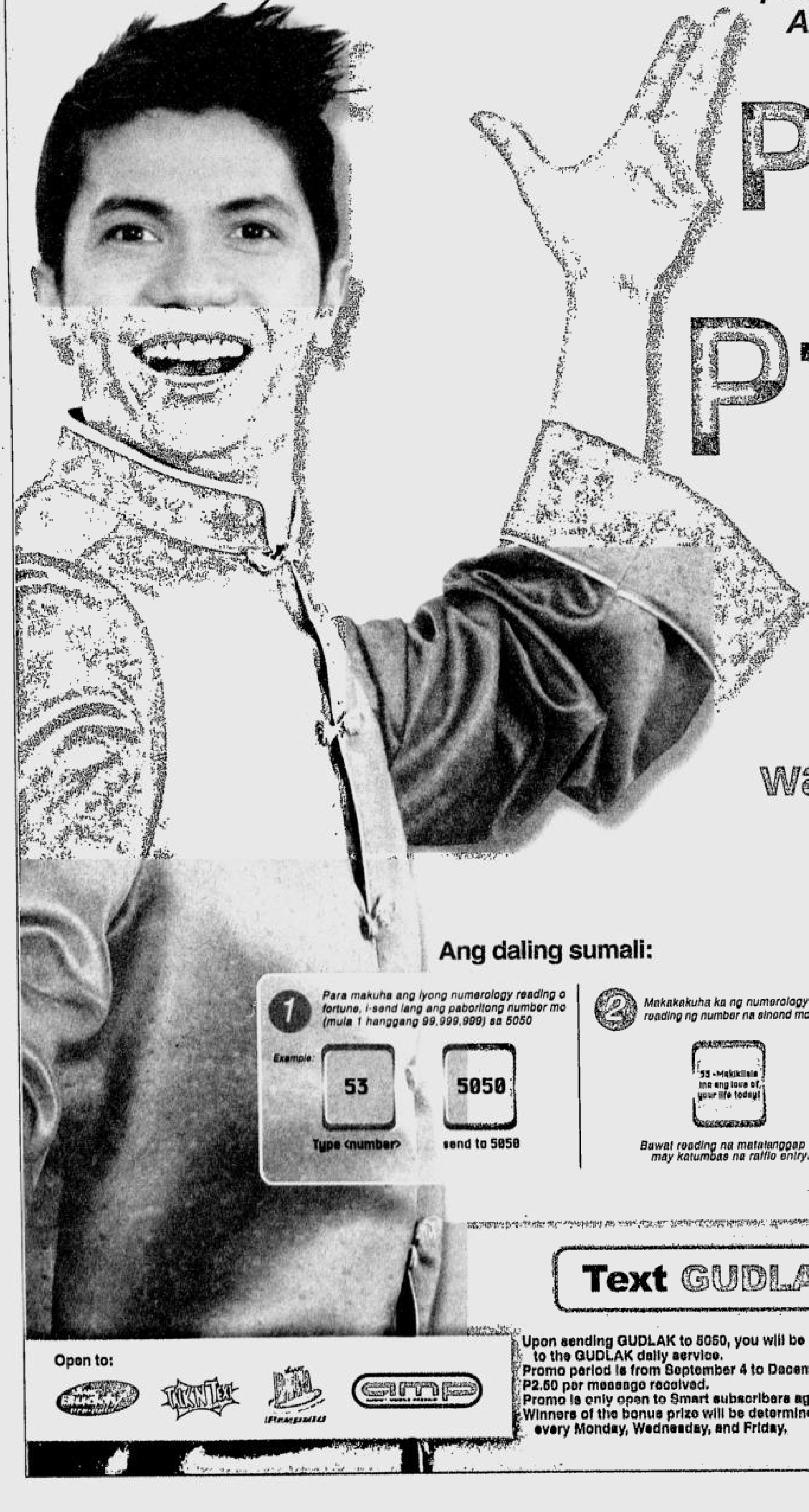

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Two Filipinas find home in land of endless war

From page A1

Seven candidates have died in the violent runup to today's elections.

The polls are part of an international effort to rebuild shattered institutions. More than 30,000 foreign troops, mostly Americans, try to keep the peace in the enormously armed country.

"I don't know of any other country that has been almost completely destroyed by war like Afghanistan," Nato envoy Hikmet Cetin said. "No government, no military, no cabinet, no leadership, no police, no authority all over the country."

Veronica earns $6,000 a month, roughly P336,000, six times more than President Macapagal-Arroyo does.

The 47-year-old Batangueña works one room away from fellow HR officer Amy Ubana of Daet, Camarines Norte, sharing a a $700-a-month apartment with her.

"Wherever you are, if your time is up, it is up," Veronica told the INQUIRER, when asked why she left a secure job in Pakistan to work in a state that produced the Taliban horrors.

Can't just go anywhere

Last October, Filipino diplomat Angelito Nayan must have thought his time was up. He was riding in a UN vehicle with two other foreign workers when gunmen seized them in downtown Kabul and held them hostage for weeks.

Veronica first left the Philippines in 1985 to work in Dubai as a secretary. Nine years later, she moved to Islamabad, where she married a Pakistani.

Having lived in the Emirates and in Pakistan, Veronica is at home with Islamic ways. In her blue-green tunic, she can easily lose herself in a crowd of Muslim women.

"I am safe here ... But we cannot just go anywhere," she said.

"When we leave the compound, or go home, we have to inform security. And we have radios and cell phones so they can monitor us. When we go out, we have security escorts. They really take care of their people here."

Blend with the people

But there are limits to where Veronica and Amy can go. If they want to dine out, they have only eight places to choose from.

"And you cannot just live anywhere you want. It has to be in a place with a security clearance," Veronica said.

A team of 11 journalists from 10 countries, including the Philippines, received the same advice to play it safe when they arrived in Kabul in late August for a visit organized by the US Department of State.

A security officer with an assault rifle slung over his shoulder made a few things clear:

- It is best to blend with the people.
- If you look like a foreigner, or a Westerner, and you go shopping and you look like you have a lot of money, you are asking to be kidnapped. You might well end up in the mountains near Pakistan.
- Some people are going to watch how you pay in a shop. Surveillance can be taking place anywhere. All they need is five minutes of intelligence before they strike.
- If you plan to go to an Internet café, don't go there at the same time every day.

A crumpled dollar bill

His words were still ringing in my ears the following day when I walked into a supermarket.

At the counter to pay for my groceries and squeezed between two Afghanis, I gingerly fished out the most shabby looking $5 bill from my wallet, hoping its sight would dampen anyone's enthusiasm to have my company in the Pakistani mountains.

What kind of world is Afghanistan?

Why would the simple act of buying a bar of soap make one feel queasy?

Why would a French Army major later tell me to put on a bulletproof vest before driving me off to a lonesome road to see soldiers frisking motorists entering the city?

Why would Veronica Qureshi have to keep a radio with her all the time?

Outside the US Embassy, I glimpsed children's paintings daubed on a street wall. What drove one child to paint the image of a man in a ricefield, hanging by his neck?

Winter and summer

Locked in by China, Pakistan, Iran and three former Soviet republics, Afghanistan strikes visitors as a land of contrasts.

Their first image of the country through a plane window is of an overwhelming mountain range completely shrouded in snow. Beyond are more mountains but coated with dust, looking so arid one wonders if anything could ever grow on them.

It is as though Afghanistan is in the midst of two seasons at once—a desolate winter side by side with a raging summer.

Overwhelmingly Muslim, this is a land of 29 million people who have not known peace for more than a quarter of a century. The Soviets invaded in 1979 but retreated 10 years later, unable to pacify its people. Fighting among warlords and mujahideen factions ensued.

IT'S STARTING TO LOOK A LOT like elections are finally coming to Afghanistan. Donkeys transport ballot boxes to a village in the northwest. Aside from donkeys, ballot boxes are borne by camels and horses. AFP

With rockets and bombs, the Taliban group, including students, seized Kabul in 1996. Five years later, US-led forces toppled the regime, accusing it of sheltering Osama bin Laden.

Narrowest world

In today's elections, some 6,000 candidates are vying for 249 seats in the national parliament as well as provincial councils. To empower women, 68 seats have been allotted to them.

Under the Taliban, women lived in the smallest of worlds. Girls were prohibited from going to school. Women were forbidden to work, not allowed to drive, and required to wear head-to-toe gowns with holes for the eyes.

In their homes, women must not be seen from the street, a US report said. Buses with women passengers must have curtains. Women whose shoe heels so much as clicked when they walked were beaten.

Buildings blasted by bombs loom like ghosts over the city. Many people live in mudhouses and the sight of poverty assails visitors everywhere, as in a street where some Afghanis rooted for food in a pile of garbage.

Armored cars and donkeys

By midmorning, Kabul is bursting with life. Shops are open and donkeys pulling carts loaded with fruit race an Italian Army armored car. Cyclists zigzag through the streets, defying motorists.

"Here, people are still not used to rules and regulations," an Afghani guide said.

At the crossroads of Central Asia, Afghanistan had captivated invaders through the centuries, from Alexander the Great to Genghis Khan.

The guide spoke not about the elections but of the wars that have ravaged his country.

Here was where hundreds died during street fighting in the 1980s. There was the football stadium where, during the Taliban days, tens of thousands of people beheld public executions of criminals, where families slit the throats of the murderers of their loved ones, where the hands of thieves were hacked off and spies hanged.

Banning frivolities

But this morning, young men were either playing football or flying kites, a "frivolity" which, like listening to music, the Taliban banned.

"When the Taliban was here, it was a very dark world," hotel attendant Adib Daanish said.

Farther on, the media convoy ran into the Divisoria of Kabul. Streets were packed with stalls laden with carpets and cosmetic items. Veiled women haggled for lower prices.

In the tourist center, shops displayed the latest in fashion, women's blouses without sleeves or cut so low you could see two inches of the mannequin's cleavage.

The Taliban city of terror was now a city of shoppers.

"The people want to forget the past," Cetin said. "They want to look at the future."

Compromise, not guns

In four years, the international community has poured in $8.4 billion to rebuild the country. Over the next four, another $27.5 billion is needed.

US officials said the elections were part of the transition from a past where guns ruled to a future where problems could be sorted out through compromise.

Still, making compromises is not natural among people with a past like the Afghanis.

"People who grew up in democratic societies think making compromises is natural because that's the way they have [done things]," US Ambassador Ronald Neumann said. "But they are not natural reflexes in societies that have had rule imposed by dictatorships, or communist systems of government, or kings."

Some settle quarrels the only way they know how.

Chief source of opium

"They go home, pull out a couple of AK-47s under the bed and shoot people," another military officer said.

Getting past such blood debts is one of the many challenges facing the current rulers.

The other challenges require international effort to overcome.

As the world's largest producer of opium poppies, the source of heroin, Afghanistan accounts for 75 percent of the world supply of opium.

Of the 178 countries listed in a UN report, Afghanistan was among the bottom six countries with the most wretched living conditions.

Life expectancy at birth is 42.9 years, compared to the Filipinos' 83. The infant mortality rate of 163 deaths per 1,000 births is one of the world's highest. The literacy rate nationwide is 36 percent.

A study says 95 percent of the population has been scarred psychologically by decades of wars. One in five suffers from mental health problems.

Flickers of hope

Production of opium poppies amounts to $2.8 billion annually, accounting for about half of the country's gross domestic product. Officials say it will take 20 years and massive foreign aid to stamp out the trade.

"Some villages look like they have been left behind for six centuries," Finnish soldier Kirsi Pekkonen said, speaking of areas without drinking water or electricity.

But riding in an armored car with Italian soldiers, you find flickers of hope. You find them in a mudhouse on a hill outside Kabul.

No, no, the village chief said, when the soldiers told him they were coming back with food and water. Just bring us pencils and books for our children, he said.

In the mudhouse, children were sprawled on the dirt floor, gaping at a world map.

Mad for pencils

"Give us tables and chairs," the chief said.

It was time to go. You climb back into the security of the armored car and bolt its door.

Then the squeals begin.

Through the port hole, children reach out with their hands, pleading, banging their tiny fists.

"They are asking for pencils," the Italian officer told the journalists.

Half a dozen ballpoint pens quickly emerge from shoulder bags and disappear into the little hands.

The squeals grow louder. But your last pen is gone.

The afternoon light has waned and the armored car rolls, its steel hulk echoing with the sounds of banging, imploring, little hands.

Hagedorn says what GMA won't admit about jueteng

From page A1

This is one line President Macapagal-Arroyo won't dare and can't afford to use.

Hagedorn, who declared last week that organized jueteng operations in Luzon had been totally eradicated, said his jueteng operations prior to his first election as mayor in 1992 helped ensure his political victory.

"All of a sudden [people] would hear news of Hagedorn having given another family medicines. [The network of bet collectors] was really a big thing because you already had people going house-to-house for you," he said.

Following his victory, however, Hagedorn said he stopped his jueteng operations and achieved what past mayors failed to do. That is to totally eradicate jueteng in Palawan's capital city.

Simple solution

"[I've been asked], how did you manage to totally stop jueteng operations in your area? I said the answer was simple. I stopped," Hagedorn said after he was appointed by Ms Arroyo as anti-jueteng czar.

With Hagedorn and the PNP's declaration of Luzon as 100 percent jueteng-free, one question remains: Why has there been no arrest of a big-name jueteng operator in the course of the campaign to rid the country of the illegal numbers game?

"Even jueteng operators have their ethics," Hagedorn said. "There is discipline in the ranks of the jueteng operators. When you nab a bet collector, he'll only point to the manager."

Nobody identifies the jueteng operator or the financier and there is almost no way of pinning it on anyone as there is no paper trail involving collection remittances, according to Hagedorn.

"That's gangster discipline," he said.

Collective effort

Hagedorn said the success in eradicating the illegal numbers game in Luzon was the product of a collective effort among the PNP, local government executives and civil society—particularly the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in the person of Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

"I never claimed personal credit that organized jueteng operations had completely ceased in all the areas where jueteng was reported to be widespread, namely: Regions 1-5, including the CAR [Cordillera Administrative Region] and NCR [National Capital Region]. In my final report to the President, I specifically cited the 'local government executives and the PNP' for having accomplished the job," he said.

"And in my previous public statements, I was already congratulating Archbishop Cruz for his crusade that brought this problem to the fore, thereby necessitating the creation of the National Anti-Jueteng Task Force. The tirade, therefore, of Boy Mayor, a self-confessed jueteng bagman, against my person is completely off-the-mark and totally uncalled for," Hagedorn said.

Small Town Lottery

As for the proposed revival of the Small Town Lottery by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), he explained that the idea was put forward by the mayors during the Mayors Summit in Puerto Princesa City.

Hagedorn, in his final report to the President, gave the following recommendations to ensure the permanent eradication of jueteng:

1. The government should undertake a massive and sustained information and education campaign so people will understand the evils of jueteng.
2. The Department of Interior and Local Government should implement strict disciplinary action on local government executives and local PNP officials if jueteng is found to have resurfaced in their areas of responsibility.
3. Existing legal forms of games of chance, such as EZ2 and other lottery games operated by PCSO, should be made more competitive with and more popular than jueteng, so that jueteng dies a natural death.
4. The Small Town Lottery should be revived as an additional legal alternative for jueteng.
5. The government must conduct a moral recovery program, provide skills training and alternative livelihoods for those who will be displaced (the *kabos, kolektors* and *rebisadors*) with the eradication of jueteng.

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The problem is . . .

From page A1

common among the three Isafp chiefs under President Macapagal-Arroyo, starting with Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus to Rear Adm. Tirso Danga and the incumbent Quevedo, who was appointed in September 2004 in an acting capacity and made permanent in January 2005.

The Isafp chiefs were also handsomely rewarded, the source also said, pointing out that they all got promoted while at Isafp.

'Food taster'

Quevedo apparently enjoys the confidence of President Arroyo even if Quevedo's father, according to an INQUIRER source, had served as food taster to the late President Ferdinand Marcos. He reportedly found favor in the Palace through his close association with a general with ties to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Quevedo proved his endurance by his continued stay as Isafp chief, despite Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's announcement on June 7 that he would be replaced by Commodore Leonardo Calderon Jr. by the end of that month.

In fact, Quevedo was also relieved as "acting Isafp chief" in November, and would have been replaced by Brig. Gen. Fernando Mesa, who was named Isafp chief by then AFP chief of staff Gen. Efren Abu.

Unprecedented promotion

But the turnover was cancelled at the last minute, reportedly after Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz ruled that Quevedo stay on as "acting Isafp chief." The incident strained ties between Abu and Quevedo.

A few months later, Abu allegedly got back at Quevedo by not endorsing his promotion to the Board of Generals (BOG), according to a source. Quevedo fought back by complaining to a relative of a Malacanang official who, in turn, "ordered" Abu to promote Quevedo sans the BOG review.

Only one boss

Quevedo's alleged unprecedented promotion didn't sit well with Army officers, who believed Abu should have invoked the precedence of the BOG on promotions, according to sources.

In defense of Abu, another colonel declared emphatically: "In this organization, there is only one boss. When the commander-in-chief says promote, the chief of staff will promote."

In March, Abu revived the AFP Counter Intelligence Group (AFP-CIG) reportedly to monitor corruption and destabilization activities in the AFP. By activating the AFPCIG, Abu also effectively subsumed, the functions of the Isafp counterintelligence unit called MIG 17 (Military Intelligence Group). MIG 21 had recorded the "Hello Garci" tapes.

At the Isafp anniversary last July 16, Quevedo was reportedly overheard telling his officers that he would not step down "while Abu is still around."

"The chief does not want Abu's name in his papers," an Isafp civilian employee told the INQUIRER. Abu retired on Aug. 15, while Quevedo will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 in March next year.

Abu's official exit could not guarantee Quevedo's relinquishing the post to Calderon. A source noted that Quevedo would have difficulty getting an assignment, especially with just eight months to go before retirement. "At most, he would stay at Isafp until he retires in March," the source said.

[Calderon was recently named senior presidential adviser]

Privilege

Nothing much has changed at Isafp since the wiretapping scandal broke wide open in June. Lt. Col. Allen Capuyan has retained his post as chief of the Operations and Intelligence Division (OID) even while attending a required one-year course at the General Staff College.

The privilege given to Capuyan has soured officers who were required to go on leave from their posts while attending the GSC. One colonel, however, took consolation in the fact that Lt. Col. George Rabusa, who was also privileged to stay on as budget officer at the comptroller's office while attending the GSC, is facing charges of unexplained wealth before the Ombudsman.

'Bugging works'

But what's new about the wiretapping, anyway? A retired colonel who had served at Isafp for perhaps the longest time, said his group installed bugging devices in Malacanang just 30 days after President Manuel Roxas took his oath of office in 1946.

"It was purely for security reasons. We wanted to know what was going on in the office of the President every minute. He could be in danger from a visitor," he told the INQUIRER.

Twenty years later, in the '60s, President Marcos summoned the colonel to a meeting in Malacañang. "When Marcos pulled me to a corner, I knew then he wanted our conversation recorded. I should know, I set that bug there," he recalled with a laugh.

To test if the bug was still there, the retired colonel said he decided to say something that would pique the interest of those who were eavesdropping.

Months later, a woman who was connected with Malacañang asked him pointedly why he told the President that he was prostituting the Isafp. "That's exactly what I told the President. The bug worked," he said.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

World leaders fall short of summit goals

UNITED NATIONS—A SUMMIT BILLED AS THE largest gathering of world leaders in history achieved far less than UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan had hoped in the fight to overhaul the United Nations and alleviate poverty, terrorism and human rights abuses.

After three days in which Syria was the only one of 191 member states not to give a speech before the General Assembly, the leaders adopted a 35-page document that commits their governments to achieving UN goals to combat poverty and creates a commission to help move countries from war to peace.

Leaders praised the document as a first step toward sweeping UN reform and helping the world's poor. But just as often, they expressed disappointment at what was left out: any mention of disarmament, UN Security Council reform, and details of a plan to replace the discredited Human Rights Commission with a new human rights council.

"I cannot disguise our profound disappointment that we were not able to agree at this summit on all of the elements required to make it operational," Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said of the Human Rights Council at a news conference Friday.

As is often the case with such events, it was meetings on the sidelines of the summit marking the United Nations' 60th anniversary that produced the most exciting headlines.

There were rare contacts between Arab states and Israel, which won praise for its withdrawal from Gaza. Many nations signed a new treaty aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism. Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, made his UN debut by saying Iran was willing to offer nuclear technology to other Muslim states, Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

US President George W. Bush, who two years ago questioned whether the United Nations was relevant, surprised many on Wednesday by giving the world body his strong backing. He also won praise for declaring that poverty breeds terrorism and despair and challenging world leaders to abolish all trade tariffs and subsidies to promote prosperity and opportunity in struggling nations.

The three-day summit brought presidents, prime ministers and kings from 151 of the 191 UN member states to the United Nations—a record number according to UN officials.

Yet instead of adopting Annan's sweeping blueprint to enable the world body to deal with the challenges of a new century, they were presented with a diluted 35-page document. The final document represented the lowest common denominator that all countries could agree on after months of negotiations.

Even then, Venezuela's foreign minister Ali Rodriguez objected to the "abhorrent and antidemocratic means" used to negotiate the document, saying that too few nations had a hand in drafting it. "This organization can have nothing good awaiting it if it follows such procedures," he said.

But for the vast majority of countries the final document was welcome, because up until the eve of the summit the differences were so wide that there was no certainty there would be an agreement.

"The outcome document represents an important step in a long process of UN reform," US Ambassador John Bolton said. "We cannot allow the reform effort to be derailed or run out of steam."

The most significant planks in the final document are the creation of a new Peacebuilding Commission to help countries emerging from conflict and an acceptance by all governments of the collective international responsibility to protect people from genocide, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. *AP*

Catholic Church to expel US gay seminarians

WASHINGTON—THE US CATHOLIC CHURCH, stung by a sex abuse scandal, is poised to launch a quiet campaign to expel from its seminaries of students suspected of homosexual orientation, sparking protests from the gay community whose members have compared the effort to a "witch hunt."

The protests were prompted by the Vatican's decision to begin at the end of this month what Catholic officials call "apostolic visitation" of US seminaries and church-controlled colleges to make sure their students abide by celibacy rules.

A Vatican-sanctioned commission that counts 117 members is expected to canvas 229 seminaries and interview students about their past sex lives and preferences, according to church officials.

In a statement release through Catholic News Service, US Conference of Catholic Bishops communications secretary Francis Maniscalco said the queries would be justified because the seminary is a place to prepare men for a lifelong commitment to celibacy.

"So anything that affects that commitment, whether it relates to heterosexual behavior or homosexual behavior," he stated, "I think, is appropriate to ask."

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, who oversees Catholic institutions operating within the US military, is in charge of the probe.

On Friday, the investigators wrapped up a two-day meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, finalizing preparations for the drive that will continue through this academic year. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Clark foes set to win in NZ

WELLINGTON—Counting in New Zealand's general election on Saturday showed that the opposition National Party led by former central bank governor Don Brash was set to topple Prime Minister Helen Clark's Labour-led government. With 20 percent of the vote counted, official election figures showed conservative National ahead with 45 percent compared with 36 percent for Labour. Those figures would translate into 57 seats for National in a 122-seat parliament, short of an overall majority but with sufficient centre-right minor party partners to form a coalition. Labour was on course for 47 seats. *Reuters*

China one-child policy

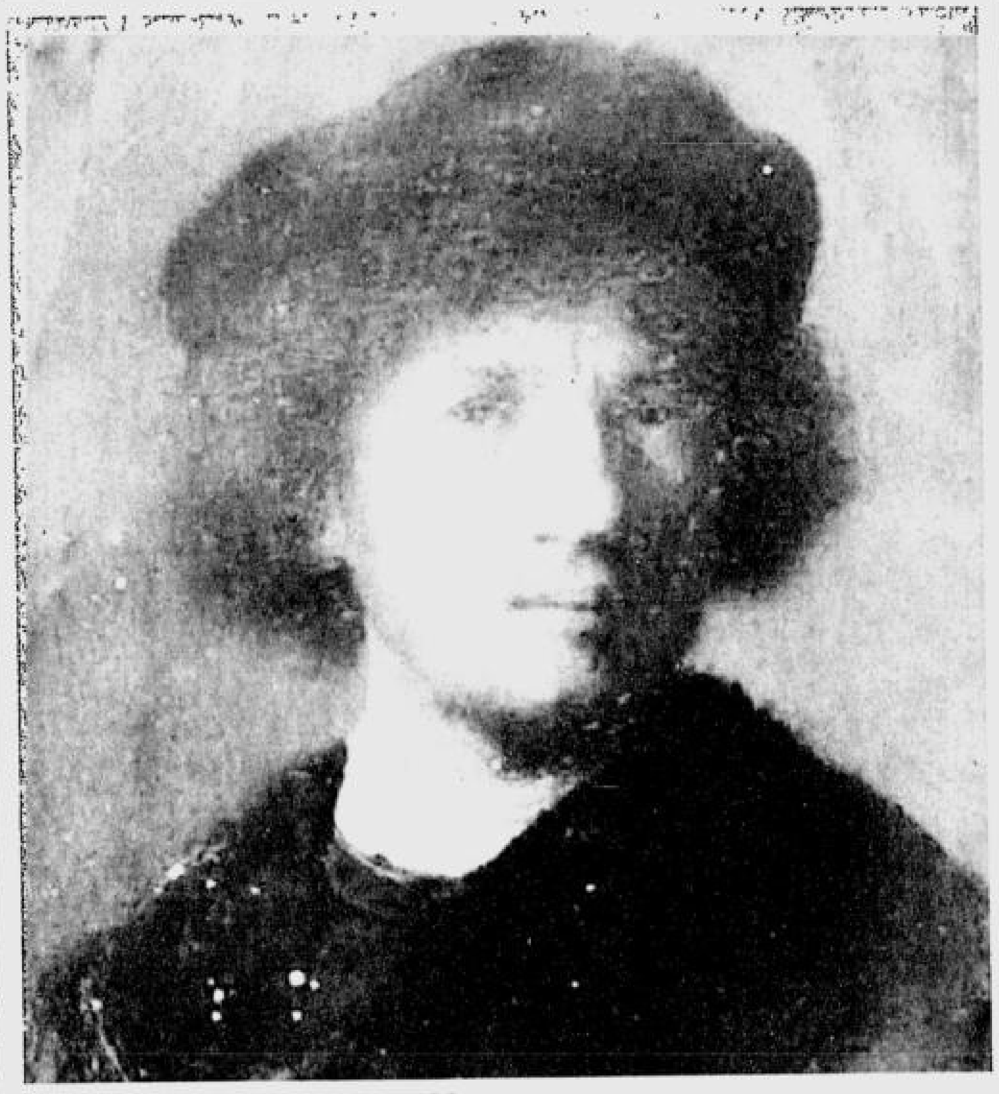
BEIJING—China is in no position to relax its Draconian one-child policy as it struggles to keep its population within 1.37 billion by the end of the decade, state media reported Saturday. Continued tough implementation of the policy is needed even though China is now in the "low-birth-rate" club with 1.8 children per couple, down from 5.8 three decades ago, the Xinhua news agency said. The two-decade-old policy makes it illegal for urban couples to have more than one child but allows rural couples to have a second child if their first is a daughter. According to data released by the commission, China would have had almost 400 million people more than the current 1.3 billion if the one-child population policy had not been launched a generation ago. *AFP*

Beirut car bomb blast

BEIRUT—A car bomb exploded in a mainly Christian residential neighbourhood of Beirut late on Friday, killing one person and wounding at least 23, Red Cross and security sources said. A series of bombs have exploded, mostly in Christian-dominated commercial areas of Beirut, since the February assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, which many Lebanese blame on Syria. Damascus denies any role. *Reuters*

Asean boycotts EU meeting

SINGAPORE—A move by Southeast Asian economic ministers to skip a weekend meeting in Rotterdam with their EU counterparts was made "on a matter of principle" after Burma's minister was denied a visa, Singapore's foreign ministry said. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations ministers had been scheduled to meet with their European colleagues in Rotterdam on Friday and Saturday as part of the Asia-Europe Meeting dialogue process. *AFP*



RECOVERED $42-M PAINTING

This picture from the Copenhagen Police Department in Denmark shows a self-portrait by Dutch master Rembrandt van Rijn, valued at about $42 million. It was recovered nearly five years after it was stolen from the National Museum in Stockholm, Danish police said Sept. 16. AP

Merkel wins back edge ahead of German vote

MERKEL AP

BERLIN—CONSERVATIVE LEADER Angela Merkel's center-right alliance has reestablished a slight poll lead over its leftist rivals two days before an election that could decide the fate of Germany's long-cherished welfare state.

A survey by the Allensbach Institute on Friday put support for Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), their sister Christian Social Union (CSU) and their preferred coalition partners, the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), at 49.5 percent—enough for a slim majority under Germany's electoral system.

That compared to a combined 48.0 percent for all other major parties, comprising 32.5 percent for Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD), 7 percent for their Greens partners and 8.5 percent for the Left Party.

The Allensbach poll, which was likely to be the last survey released before Germans vote on Sunday, echoed the results of another poll from Forsa, which gave a center-right Merkel-led coalition support of between 48 and 51 percent.

The latest surveys are a huge boost for Merkel, whose party held a commanding double-digit lead in opinion polls several weeks ago but has been thrown on the defensive by the dynamic campaigning of Schroeder and furious attacks by his party. *Reuters*

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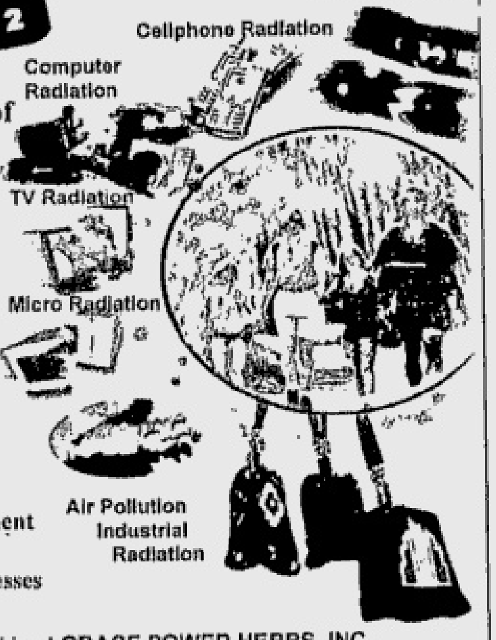

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USMLE	15 6p MKT 30 6p MLA, 7 6p QC, 21 6p QC	
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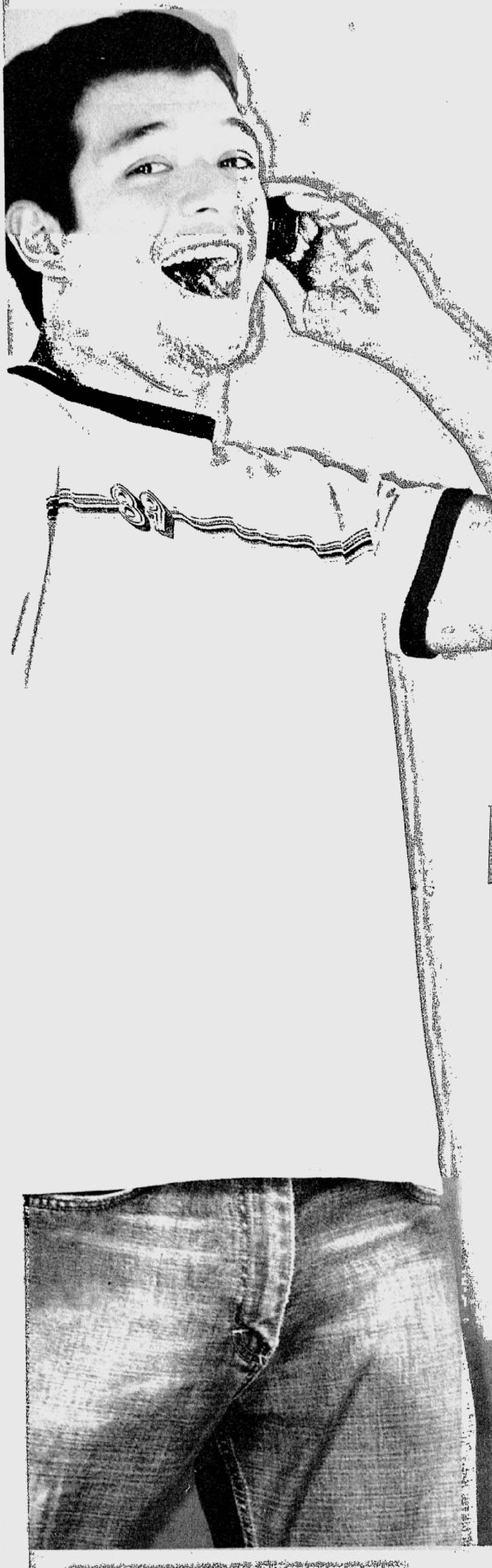

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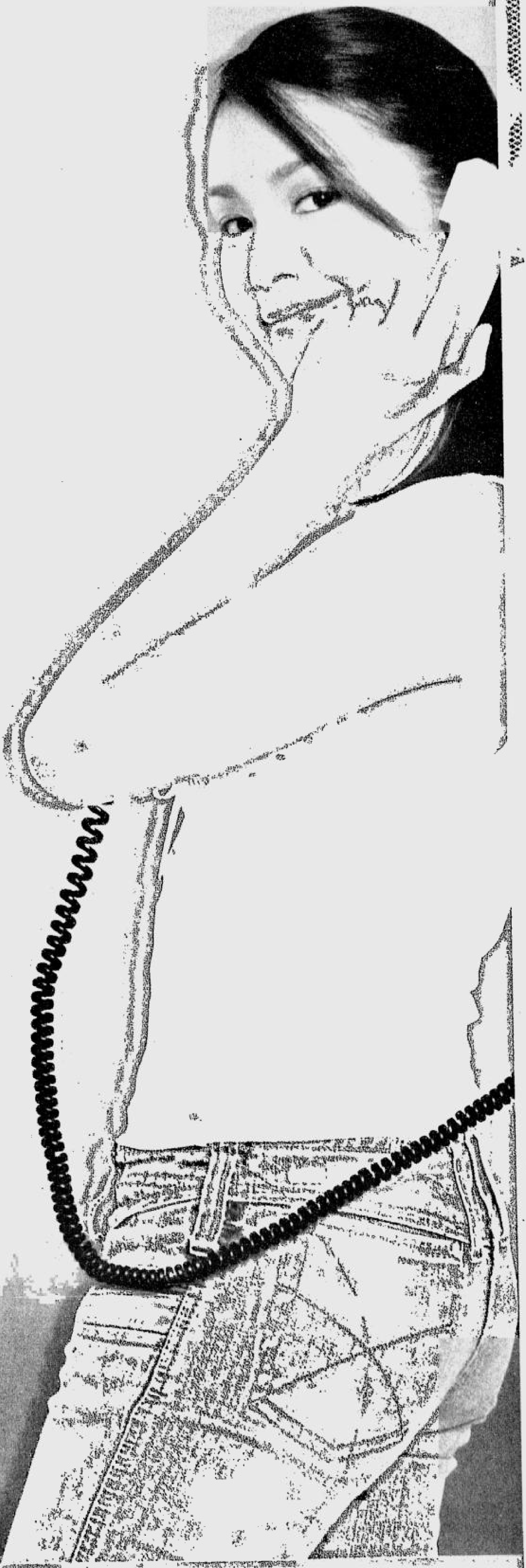

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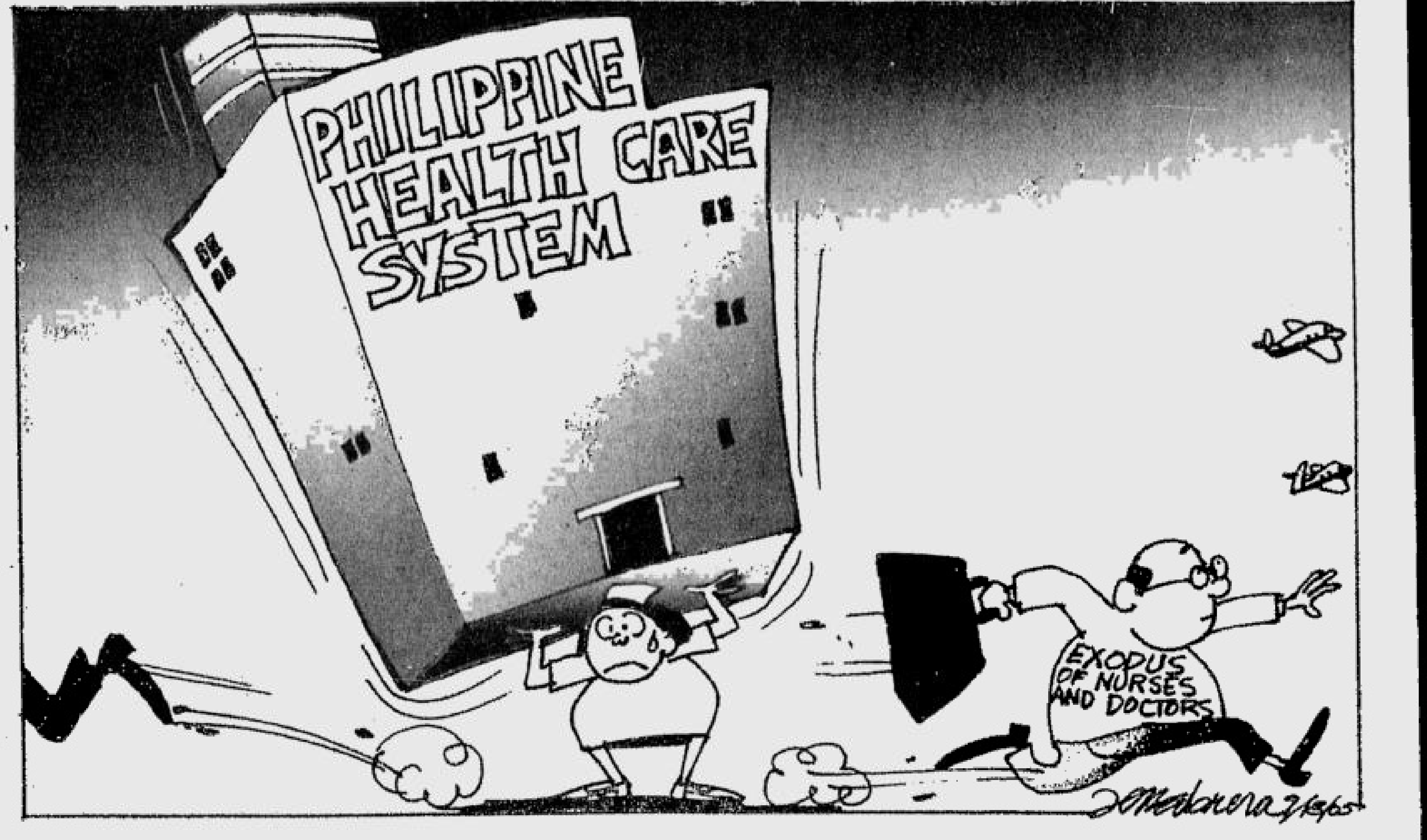


Untenable

EDITORIAL

THE CONTRACT NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales Jr. entered into with a leading American law firm, to secure American support for "the Charter Change initiative of the President of the Philippines," does not become less objectionable merely because, as Gonzales claims, private money and not public funds will pay for it. On the contrary, it makes the transaction an even bigger outrage.

Gonzales sought to defend the P50-million contract with Venable LLP by justifying the need for the government to hire its own lobbyists. "We're looking at certain grants, aids, programs between the two countries, and my own observation is that some of these are not forthcoming when they should be coming [sic] already. I thought that we should look into the situation there and the normal practice in the US is that you get a lobby group."

Then he invoked his own boss, saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo had given him a specific piece of advice. "The government could have a lobby group but we should not spend money for this," he recalled her saying so.

But those cautionary words do not and cannot excuse the very idea of soliciting a foreign power's assistance in changing our Constitution; in fact, they make the notion even more inexcusable.

Getting the private sector to foot the bill for a project of this kind is not a Solomonic decision. It is, instead, Herodian: It involves getting somebody else to do one's dirty work.

Palace initiatives become matters of great public concern when they are blithely explained away as being funded by private money. For one thing, the real reason is government officials do not want to account for the expense, not because the national government is cash-strapped. For another, private donations always come with strings attached.

It was for these same reasons that we objected to the expensive, privately funded refurbishing of the presidential yacht during President Joseph Estrada's time. Our own history teaches us that the generosity of cronies comes at a price.

But Gonzales cannot even name who the Venable contract's cronies-to-be are. He said he does not yet know who they are, because his job was merely to "sign the contract and monitor the specifications of the contract."

This is an explanation that not only does **not** explain; it undermines the credibility of the explainer himself.

As the original report of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism made clear, none of the senior Cabinet officials who ought to have vetted the contract had even heard of it: not Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, not Presidential Legal Adviser Merceditas Gutierrez, not the highest officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, not the Ambassador to the United States. Not even his deputy at the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency knew about the lobbying contract Gonzales had entered into.

In that case, it must have been an off-the-books affair, like special operations during elections. But if Gonzales himself does not know who the private donors are, then who would? Is he saying it's the President alone who knows who's donating and by how much?

That can only deepen public concern, about the real costs of the Venable contract.

Gonzales sought to dampen the growing public indignation over the arrangement by saying that Venable was committed to render many other services for the government, and that the Charter Change provision was a mere add-on. The contract, he said, specified "mostly ... defense matters."

But a look at the contract itself, easily available on the Internet, shows that lobbying in the United States for constitutional change in the Philippines is no afterthought; in fact, in the list of "specific tasks" which Venable "will undertake and use best efforts to accomplish," it comes first.

"(1) Secure grants or congressional earmarks for support of the Charter Change initiative of the President of the Philippines, which would reshape the form of government in the Philippines from its current structure into a parliamentary federal system."

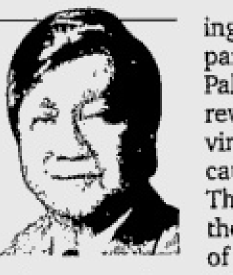
The "capability enhancement program for the Armed Forces of the Philippines" only comes in third. So much for defense matters.

Gonzales' latest statements convince us not only that the contract must be scrapped, but also that the circumstances that led to it be thoroughly investigated.

To fight another day

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



I SALUTE THE 51 PRO-IMPEACHERS WHO were outvoted but not defeated. They are like the heroes of Tirad Pass who were overwhelmed by the superior enemy but earned our nation's veneration. Our present-day gallants fell but only for the nonce and with their ideals intact. They will rise again to fight another day.

They easily could have joined the greater number and received generous rewards for abandoning their principles. They knew they were risking their political future and forfeiting much personal advantage in rejecting the offers of the majority. Still they valiantly stood their ground and demanded the President's trial and conviction. They lost in the numerical count, but won the moral fight.

The counter-offensive of the administration was a terrible dreadnought that left the opposition in disarray. It was fueled with money, weaponed with threats and enticements, and shielded with power and denials. It was an arsenal of tricks as cheap as they were expensive. It made the pro-impeachers more vulnerable but also less daunted.

Many in the media, including not a few so-called opinion-makers, were enlisted with all manner of persuasions, monetary and otherwise, to campaign for President Macapagal-Arroyo. The opposition was no match for the din of the Himmler-like propaganda. Full-page advertisements appeared in the major dailies at the expense of Malacañang or flatterers expecting its favor. At least they benefited the publications that printed them without endorsement like other paid commercials.

GMA's publicists featured her as the amiable President mixing with the little people, courting the goodwill of opportunistic religious leaders, and taking a walk at the Luneta like an ordinary stroller enjoying the bayside breeze. On her orders, pictures of her should be smiling and never pouting or cross like her usual self. The erstwhile *mataray na pangulo* had suddenly turned *mabait at nakikisama*.

It was all show and the people were not impressed. The call for her removal increased not only in "Imperial Manila," as her satraps malign its independent voters. The rest of the country also protested angrily. In Cebu, in Iloilo, in Bicolandia, in Cagayan de Oro, and in most of Mindanao, where she schemed to win a million votes last year, the clamor became an indignant demand.

The juggernaut of President Arroyo was menacing enough or tempting enough to force some of the original pro-impeachers to reconsider their courage. Courage proved less convincing than concessions. Two of them withdrew their signatures on the impeachment complaint, some stalwart Erap men simply absented themselves from "the moment of truth," and at least three other turncoats even went abroad to avoid voting against her.

Rep. Pedro Pancho said that he changed his mind because President Arroyo granted some P321 million in sales discounts to his squatter constituents. Sen. Richard Gordon charged that Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay was inveigled with a business accommodation in Subic Bay. Rep. Imee Marcos, one of the original impeachers, is said to have bargained for the desecration of the Libingan ng mga Bayani with the burial there of her infamous father.

Wait for further announcements of the promises the President has made. Whether they are honored (?) or deliberately forgotten is certain to make headlines, in either case to reveal her true character.

Meanwhile, the pro-impeachers are recruiting more adherents to strengthen their campaign for the ejectment of Ms Arroyo from the Palace of the People. Their initial setback was a reversal only in a battle, but they are convinced they will ultimately win the war because the President is her own worst enemy. The continued exposé of her abuses will toll the bell for her political extinction and the end of her corrupt administration. Their desperate mission is, they are sure, not an impossible dream.

Let them be warned, though, that after the one-year period from the Lozano impeachment complaint, another one also "sufficient in form but not in substance" may be filed against her and again similarly dismissed. This will make her immune for another year against the filing of other complaints based on more serious grounds, like the ones denounced in the second and third complaints. Unless the opposition is alert enough to prevent it, this gambit may be repeated every year until the end of her term.

The quashing of this year's impeachment movement has not proclaimed President Arroyo's absolute innocence. It has only prevented her trial in the Senate. She has not yet been absolved from her alleged criminality regarding the Garci tapes and the *jueteng* payola, which are not likely to be swept under the rug like other forgiven anomalies. Cory's prayers and Susan's anger may yet be heard by a wrathful heaven.

I was much impressed by the young members of the pro-impeachment group for their intelligence and idealism. Among them are Francis Escudero, Edmundo Reyes Jr., Alan Peter Cayetano, Ace Barbers, Robert Jaworski, Gilbert Remulla and other legislators who have shamed many mature politicians for bartering their conscience for a mess of pottage. With such young leadership eventually replacing them, I have no fear for the future of our now maltreated country.

Black and white

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A PANDA WAS OVERHEARD TELLING A tourist: "All right, you may take my picture, but I want it in black and white."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 20, 1-16), we hear of the laborers who grumbled over the equal payment their landowner paid each one of them at the end of the day, regardless of whether they worked for 10 hours or 1 hour only. They demanded that everything be black and white. From the human point of view, the landowner was unfair. Yes, we look around us, and we often feel that God is unfair. Why does evil seem to prosper, and the good seem to suffer? Why do we not win our battles when we are so sincere? Why is it taking so long for our worthy causes to succeed? These questions and complaints are valid, but we must remember that, with God, we can only plead, not dictate.

* * *

I am reminded of the story about a man who, when he saw his friend from afar, called out to him in a loud voice. After someone gave him a set of binoculars, he began whispering his friend's name. In our younger and stronger days, perhaps, we may have often shouted at God and even cursed Him; but in our mellow years, especially when we are near the end, we can only look at Him, pleading for mercy and asking for forgiveness for the times we thought we knew more and cared more than He did. As we experience trials, disappointments, failures and setbacks, may we not forget that God is not plain black and white. He is that, but He is much more than that. Let us not dictate to God the limits of our eyesight. He sees more, much more than meets the human eye.

* * *

As far as today's Gospel story is concerned, we do not see a black and white but a multicolored picture: yellow is the color of the idle laborers; blue is the color of those who grumbled at the landowner's manner of compensating them for their labor; red is the color of those who got angry at the landowner; green is the color of the envious laborers; and, of course, gold is the color of the generous landowner. What is your color? And what is your true color in the problems that confront us today?

* * *

The parable about the landowner should remind us to be grateful. That we were hired at all, that He made us a part of His life, His work and His plans, all these are gratuitous and generous acts of God. The problem comes when we begin to focus on what we deserve, what we have earned and what is ours by right. On the human level, these questions are a must, but on the divine level, these questions must be replaced by trust.

* * *

Trust is so important, especially in a world that has become so cruel and unjust. As much as possible, without surrender, we must continue to believe that there is a just God who will punish the evildoers and will reward the good. But believing this, we must go one step further by believing that this just God is also a loving and merciful God. Whew! Boy, it is not easy to understand the ways of God! No wonder, many refuse to follow His way and His leadings. Again, the key word is trust. If we have not learned to trust God, we have not really learned much in life.

* * *

I admire people who are very organized and who get things done by sheer hard work and talent. But I admire more such people who always leave room for the divine in their achievements and plans. As we work for the good of the earth, for social justice among peoples, and for the spread of the Gospel, let us not forget God the beginning, the sustenance, and the end of all these human endeavors. If we leave out the divine, we may become proud, and if we are proud, we may become discouraged by failures and delays, or worse, we may become angry, bitter, vain and empty.

* * *

"*Ora et labora.*" Pray and work. This is what the organizing committee headed by Ella Sanchez followed to make "A Day of Healing with Jesus Through Mary" at the Ultra last Sept. 11 truly a success. There are two adjectives that best describe the group: corporate and desperate. Shouldn't we all be corporate in the sense that we leave no stones unturned by our hard work and talents, but also desperate, that we need to cooperate with each other and continuously storm the heavens with our prayers? Some 6,000 people went home that day, filled with healing and hope, so blessed by the presence of the Korean visionary Julia Kim, and super blessed by the presence of Jesus, the greatest healer in the Eucharist.

* * *

A word of thanks, too, goes to Fr. Ondoy Espuelas, SVD, the different organizations and the Gothong family who made the "healing Mass" possible at the Sacred Heart Parish, Cebu City last Sept. 12. Yes, we can achieve a lot, and make our Father in heaven smile above if we learn to cooperate, work corporate, and pray desperate.

* * *

Inviting you for the "Walk with God" to Manaoag on Oct. 8, starting at 6 a.m. from Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

* * *

Inviting you to a pilgrimage to Naju, Korea Nov. 9 to 14. For particulars, please call 913 03-88/911-13-94/09212866810.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to learn how to cooperate, how to work corporate, and how to pray desperate. Amen.

The slow death of Philippine basketball

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

MORE THAN 300 YEARS AGO, SPAIN GAVE US Christianity. In its time, the United States established a public school system, introduced us to a presidential form of government, and passed on a great love for the game of basketball.

Today, all these legacies are under attack. The Church is threatened by other religious groupings which promise not only eternal salvation but even an immigrant visa to the United States. The public school system is in dire need of reform, if we are to go by our standing in the different disciplines vis-à-vis the regional competition. There are moves to amend the basic law of the land, replacing the present political system with a parliamentary form of government patterned after many of our neighbors, which are now tiger economies, while we continue to struggle just to keep our heads above water.

For a large sector of society, it is probably the state of Philippine basketball that says it all. From being No. 1 in Asia—gold medalist in the first Asian Games in New Delhi in 1950—and a strong contender in world competitions, we are now lepers in the global basketball community, and our teams have been suspended from participating in all official international contests. Unless something happens in the next few weeks, our people will be shocked to realize that basketball—the "national sport"—will not be on the agenda of the coming Southeast Asian Games to be hosted by the Philippines this November.

The Federacion Internationale de Basketball, or Fiba, the powerful body which dominates the game, has denied the request of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) to recognize the newly formed basketball organization known as the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI), in place of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

For a better understanding of the problem, let me backtrack a bit.

A few months ago, the POC called for a meeting of the various basketball organizations in the country with the objective of unifying efforts in putting up a national team for the SEA Games. There appeared to be some kind of consensus but, apparently, the BAP had a different reading of the issue and proceeded to form the national basketball team, a role normally given to the National Sports Association (NSA) which, in this case, is the BAP. On the other hand, in multi-sports competitions, such as the Olympics and the SEA Games, the authority of the POC over athletes and teams representing the country, is recognized and respected. So, in a way, there exists a grey area which is subject to confusion and misinterpretation. Only good faith, good intentions and, perhaps, a little give-and-take among the people concerned can resolve such a situation.

Unfortunately, the POC viewed the actions of the BAP as a violation of an alleged agreement and voted to expel the group. It also formed a new organization, the PBFI, and moved to have the new body recognized by Fiba.

Fiba's slogan is "We Are Basketball" and not even the International Olympic Committee (IOC) can influence the manner in which Fiba runs its affairs. In his reply to the POC request, Fiba's secretary general Patrick Baumann wrote: "Fiba's opinion is that it is inappropriate to use basketball as a sport-political game between opposing sides. As a consequence, Fiba cannot accept the POC's decisions to remove one group in favor of the other. . . It is our strong belief that only when all basketball stakeholders in the country unite, then Philippine basketball has a chance for long-term stability and international results. As a consequence of our position on the matter, it is impossible for Fiba to entertain your request for affiliation of the PBFI dated July 29, 2005."

My understanding is that a POC delegation will soon be leaving for Geneva—home of Fiba—to present a clearer picture of the POC stand in the squabble and, hopefully, get a reversal of the Fiba decision. Personally, I am pessimistic about the outcome of this meeting. My guess is Fiba will stand by its earlier position. That means no basketball for the SEA Games. We lose an almost sure gold, and the opportunity to defend the championship which was won in Vietnam in 2003. But perhaps, more important than anything else is that we shall not be able to join the family of nations when it comes to basketball.

The bickerings in basketball are actually a reflection of the national malady. We have the talent, but we just don't have the right leadership and the vision.

* * *

Tomorrow, Maj. Gen. Samuel B. Bagasin will mark his 55th birthday. If not for an unexpected turn of events at the last minute, he would be celebrating this milestone as commander of SouthCom, with possibly a third star on his shoulders. In his place is an officer-in-charge (OIC), Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, who will be retiring on Jan. 11, 2006 less than four months from now.

It is mindboggling to try to figure out why an OIC is placed at the head of SouthCom, the AFP's largest and most important unified command. Most of the Army's combat battalions operate under this command, along with key elements of the Air Force and the Navy. It is responsible for conducting operations against communist insurgents, Muslim secessionists, Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) elements in the south. It deserves a commander, not an OIC. As the titles indicate, a commander commands; an OIC is . . . well, merely in charge.

A meeting of hypocrites

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MEET THE FAKERS" IS THE TITLE NEW YORK Times columnist Nicholas Kristof used for his column on the UN Millennium Summit which just ended.

"The biggest gathering of leaders in history unfolds this week at the United Nations, as they preen and boast about how much they're helping the world's poor. In short, it may be the greatest assembly in history—of hypocrites," Kristof wrote.

"The fact is that with just a few exceptions, the presidents and prime ministers coming to the UN summit are doing a disgraceful job in helping the poor."

Kristof's harsh judgment is based on the dismal results (based on reports submitted by the governments led by the "hypocrites" he denounces) of efforts in the last five years to meet their self-imposed goals to bring an end to poverty, hunger, injustice and ignorance in their countries.

At the UN Millennium Summit of 2000, the world's leaders, including former President Joseph Estrada, pledged, among others, to cut extreme poverty in half, reduce child mortality by two-thirds, and maternal mortality by three-fourths—by the year 2015 or 10 years from now. Those goals are contained in the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs, an eight-point distillation of the pledges at the Summit with statistical, time-bound targets for measuring progress in health, education, gender equality and other areas.

Though Christ has said that "the poor will always be with us," meeting the MDGs is, by most estimates, feasible and attainable by 2015, but only if the world's governments, especially the richest governments, are willing to back rhetoric with money and other forms of aid.

* * *

THAT, however, doesn't seem forthcoming. In an opinion piece for the Financial Times, American professor and economist Jeffrey Sachs laments the lack of focus and will of the Bush administration. "It seems at times that all US foreign policy regarding economic development revolves around the US insistence to pay almost nothing to help the poorest countries," Sachs wrote.

"US official aid levels are 0.16 percent of GNP, an increase from 0.10 percent when President Bush took office but still the lowest or second lowest of all donors (vying with Italy for the bottom slot). US aid levels for Africa are 0.03 percent of GNP, meaning that the US gives Africa just three cents in aid for every $100 of US GNP. Much of the rest of US aid still goes to 'strategic' countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, and Egypt, or to US consultants' salaries.

"Why the US government is so dead-set against doing more to help impoverished and dying people is one of the great mysteries of our time. It's not as if the poorest countries are asking for an open checkbook or an unconstrained line of credit. They are asking for rich countries to honor a modest commitment, a mere 0.7 percent of GNP, roughly one-seventh of what the US is spending this year on the military and one-third of what the US has spent on tax cuts in the first Bush term."

* * *

BUT other governments are not off the hook, either. While some countries, says Kristof, from Bangladesh to Indonesia, Brazil to Mongolia, are on track to meet the MDGs, "most of the world appears likely to miss the goals."

The columnist singles out two countries—China and India—that should take the lead for developing countries but are performing dismally. In India, among children from one to five years old, girls are 50 percent more likely to die than boys, "meaning that each year, 130,000 Indian girls are discriminated to death." The two countries' performance is even more shameful when compared to the achievements of other, smaller and poorer countries.

Observes Kristof: "Bangladesh has now overtaken India in improving child mortality, and Vietnam has overtaken China. If India had matched Bangladesh's rate of reduction in child mortality over the last decade, according to the UN Development Program, it would have saved 732,000 children's lives this year."

* * *

THE UNDP, in a report released to coincide with the Summit, notes that "the promise to the world's poor is being broken." Reports show that the gap between the commitments made in 2000 and the trends in actual performance of the signatory governments "amounts to 41 million children dying before their fifth birthday over the next decade."

What makes such a sorry record truly puzzling and inexcusable is that each signatory government was free to set specific targets for itself in pursuit of the MDGs. The Philippines, for example, chose to set for itself the goal of eliminating "gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and all levels of education not later than 2015" under Goal Number 3, which is "Promote Gender Equality." This is disingenuous at best, since girls' access to primary and secondary education has never really been a serious problem in the Philippines. Indeed, experts maintain that more Pinoy boys than girls drop out from school, under pressure from their families to start working and earning a living. If it truly wished to pursue gender equality, the government should have set its sights on other, more urgent concerns, such as violence against women.

Then, too, given the erosion of support for the government's reproductive health program, an offshoot of policy emanating from Malacañang itself, it's doubtful if the country could even hope to reach its goal of increased access to basic reproductive health services to 100 percent by 2015.

If President Macapagal-Arroyo truly wishes to convince our creditors to condone as much as 50 percent of our foreign debts as equity in poverty-reduction measures, then the government should first prove that it will put that money where it's meant to go. So far, though, its record in that regard is dubious.

Surviving PAL country

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

OUR COUNTRY IS AN AIRCRAFT, AND ITS NAME is Philippine Airlines. We are its patient passengers. This plane is long-delayed for a host of reasons—a bomb threat from nowhere, a malfunctioning engine that has seen better days, chaotic procedures, and a crew that is too timid and too uncaring to explain the situation to the passengers.

I did not realize how uncannily close this parallelism was until I took PR 812 from Davao to Manila the other day. The flight was supposed to leave Davao at 2:15 p.m. on Sept. 16. It was able to take off only at 8:50 a.m. the following day, Sept. 17. The passengers were mostly teachers, priests and nuns who attended a convention of Catholic schools. I flew into Davao the previous day for a lecture at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao. I thought of squeezing in some birdwatching while there, and so I had myself re-booked for a mid-day flight the following day. It was a mistake.

Twenty minutes after boarding should have begun, a voice in the PA system curtly announced that further security procedures needed to be conducted. The plane was pulled away from the airport terminal. The cargo bins were towed to the tarmac and their contents spread out on the cement floor. From the large glass panes of the waiting lounge of the new airport, we spotted a couple of sniff dogs that were put to work. It meant only one thing—they were looking for bombs. But this caused hardly any alarm, only mild grumbling over a possibly long delay.

One of the dogs appeared to stage its own revolt. As it was led to an endless line of cartons containing the durian fruit, the dog suddenly broke loose from its trainer and circled the whole cargo over and over like a horse gone mad. We all laughed and took vicarious delight in this amazing act of rebellion. Later, passengers with checked-in baggage were asked to go down to the tarmac to identify their baggage and to drag it to the cargo bins. Two small vans shuttled back and forth to ferry the passengers. I was pleasantly surprised by the extraordinary serenity with which my fellow passengers complied with this task.

Finally, at almost 6 p.m., boarding was announced. Before this, no PAL personnel bothered to show up at the waiting lounge; neither was there any explanation offered by anyone for the extended delay. Inside the plane, more bad news awaited us. One of the plane's engines failed to start. At around 7:30 p.m., we were asked to return to the airport lounge to wait for further instructions. No such instructions came. Some passengers decided to withdraw from the flight, and asked that their baggage be off-loaded. It was supper time. This was a nation left to fend for itself.

At 9 p.m., a re-boarding was announced. Patiently, we all made a line for the door. Everyone was either calling or texting someone who was waiting at the Manila terminal. I had run out of battery charge and all I could manage was a short message to Karina, my wife, telling her that I would miss the birthday dinner for our daughter Kara. This wasn't as bad, I said, as missing a connecting flight to San Francisco or to Dubai where some passengers were headed. She was all praise for my seeming patience and coolness. At 10 p.m., the captain announced that the same problem with the engine had recurred.

At that point, more people decided to leave the plane. They saw the engine malfunction as a bad omen. Once more, cargo was off-loaded from the plane. Snack packets containing peanuts and some jello were distributed. This was our dinner. Seeing this meager fare, one passenger opened a large box of pastries and shared the goodies with everyone. Another passenger offered a gallon of rare durian ice cream. It is funny and heart-warming. Abandoned by their leaders, Pinoys take stock of what they have and share it.

At a little before 11 p.m., Captain Rocha announced that the plane was all right and it was safe to fly, but that the baggage of those who were quitting the flight had to be unloaded. This was taking time. We were told that the PAL terminal in Manila would already be closed by the time we landed. There was no choice but to abort the flight. All the baggage had to be off-loaded and collected by the passengers. The same plane would leave at 7:30 the next morning.

That was when I began to lose my cool. I sought out and confronted the PAL manager in Davao, a Mr. Arturo Balaga. Unknown to many of us, he was in his office all this time, but not once did he bother to come out to explain the situation to the passengers. He said that PAL could not offer accommodation because all hotels were fully booked. However, he said PAL would reimburse those who would find a place to stay for the night. It was almost midnight.

Weary from the long wait, children began to fret and the elderly were moving around in a daze, wondering where they might deposit their suitcases and fruit boxes. One of the passengers, the writer Sylvia Marfori, approached passengers to ask if they needed a bed for the night, offering to put them up in her own home. She gathered more than a dozen people, myself included. She called up a friend of hers, Min Ponce-Millan, and asked her to accommodate more people in her apartelle. That's how we survived PAL's deceitful negligence.

The PAL manager had lied to us; some passengers found vacant rooms in various hotels. But many slept with no blankets in the cold iron benches of the waiting lounge. PAL's in-flight crews are its saving grace, but the indifference of management cancels everything they do. I found new friends on this trip, and discovered a trait that makes this nation survive despite its leaders—the instinct for generosity of its people.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Bishop stands for morality all over

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

TO "CONFINE OURSELVES TO THE SACRISTY" OR TO SALLY forth and engage the world—this is the challenge over which many a priest and bishop must be agonizing. Archbishop Oscar Cruz, running priest Fr. Robert Reyes, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Bishop Julio Labayen, Fr. Ruben Villote, Bishop Antonio Fortich, Fr. Nico Bautista et al. may be prototypal of those who have courageously gone forth.

Archbishop Cruz, making headlines since July, has shown courage for at least three reasons. The most visible reason—and, perhaps, all that people see—is his boldness in exposing *jueteng*; in fact, he also exposed himself to political vultures who could devour him without mercy. It is belaboring the obvious to say that the attempts to indeed "devour" him have been sorely felt by the bishop. For a while I feared that he might be "abandoned" even by his co-bishops. What a relief that they stood behind him!

The second reason has to do with our truncated view of morality and of the role of priests, both of which are intertwined. The mindset has lain deep in our moral-religious culture for centuries, imbedded like an impacted tooth.

Too long have we been brought up or brainwashed to think that "morality" has to do only with sex, "private lives," indecent exposure and, lately, with birth and death issues. Because these issues are often settled in the confessional boxes inside the churches, therefore, the "guides of morality"—meaning, the priests and bishops—should also "stay in church," so the thinking goes.

The truth is, morality inheres in every human act, in itself, in its objectives and circumstances, in its relationships. All fields are awash with the moral dimension: governance, environment, war, wealth, poverty, business, gambling, property, justice, media, advertising—name it. Politics, for one, is swimming in morality issues (or, should we say, sinking in immorality).

As one young, wise priest put it, the Church has been obsessed with the beginning and end of life, and has neglected everything in between. And "everything in between" is out there; humongous, complicated and serious. How can one expect the enlightened priest or bishop to stay in the church? Morality is everywhere. Perhaps, the controversy over the matter will keep the safe players in the sacristy, but the brave will be restive and go out.

How has it come to this? This is a fruit of several related dichotomies (a long story) we have been brought up in: body and soul, Martha and Mary, God and Mammon, Church and State (yet to be fully understood), secular and spiritual. They have done ill to the character of Catholicism. They have split the whole man. Most of our public servants from the President to senators and congressmen, governors and mayors down to the barangay captains are mostly Catholics, but what a bunch of Jekyll and Hyde's.

Those who would make us moral in a cultural climate like this—like Bishop Cruz and those before him, with him and after him—display great courage in restoring the fuller role of the priest and the paradigms of morality to its entire range. "*Sumosobra na,*" said a dear Catholic friend of the actions of Bishop Cruz. Have I been of help?

There is a third and even more subtle reason for the courage of Bishop Cruz. Right after the July 9 CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) statement, which was titled, "Restoring Trust: A Plea for Moral Values in Philippine Politics," news came fast that the Vatican, through the Nuncio, had cautioned and advised the bishops to keep off politics. Commentators even suggested that that advice could have changed the tenor of the statement.

The report pointed to one of the many burning questions in Church governance, set down in a number of Vatican II documents and decrees. It is "collegiality" which, in brief, deals with the interplay and/or balance of authority and autonomy in the relationship between the local Churches and the Vatican. It's a very delicate but urgent matter that must be discussed and settled by bishops of any given Conference, among themselves and with the Vatican.

The tension (not conflict, please) between the two is inevitable. On the one hand, the Vatican up till Pope John Paul II (and possibly till Benedict XVI), despite Vatican II, seems loathe to loosen an almost absolutist papal and Vatican center. How we looked up to the autocratic Pope Pius XII as fount of authority! On the other hand the local Churches have felt the need to have space for discretion, decision-making and some devolution. Cardinal Sin was said to have been cautioned to keep off politics, but we all know what he did.

Given very diverse situations in the local Churches, pastoring would have to be vastly different in the Philippines from that in Africa, Rome or the United States. Unity in diversity is attainable. "Unity, not uniformity" will not sunder the Church. "Collegiality and co-responsibility are now the order of the day."

Bishop Cruz's courage in wading right into the jueteng scandal, is in some way, testing the waters of collegiality.

It's great to see my Church in fighting form.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda@info.com.ph; fax 8210659

THEY SAID

Averting disaster

"The present political activities have not helped at all. The biggest national threat is before us now. We need nothing less than to act as one nation to tame the cancer of oil and avert an economic crash come 2008."

—Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya on the soaring of world oil prices and their effect on our economy

Fighting corruption

"So, some people think fighting corruption in the Philippines is like being handed a poisoned chalice, do they? Well, I guess they haven't been to Nigeria then."

—Hong Kong graft-buster Tony Kwok Wan-Mai, explaining why battling corruption in RP is not an impossible mission

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Making ends meet

BECAUSE OF THE SURGING COST OF LIVING AS A RESULT OF RECORD FUEL prices, Filipinos, especially the middle class, are being forced to prioritize their needs over their wants. Instead of eating out on weekends, some families are just staying home. Instead of using a car or taking a taxi or bus, more and more people are riding the MRT or LRT—the light railway system in Metro Manila.

Instead of liquefied petroleum gas, a growing number of households are using kerosene, charcoal or firewood for cooking. Instead of buying a kilo of pork or chicken, they are settling for half or a fourth of a kilo and are turning to vegetables.

Instead of going to malls to buy brand new jeans, blouses or dresses, people are patronizing *ukay-ukay* (used clothing) stores. Instead of sending their children to private schools, parents are enrolling them in public schools.

With incomes unable to catch up with inflation, the list of how consumers are making ends meet is a long one and varies from one income class to another. Those without means of livelihood may go hungry more often.

Manufacturers are rising to the challenge of producing affordable goods. They are rightsizing their products, coming up with 100-gram canned goods, and shampoo, cooking oil, vinegar, soy sauce and tomato sauce in sachets.

People will have to further tighten their belts when the 10-percent expanded value-added tax takes effect.

Small is beautiful: Consumer spending in critical times

By Esther J. Capistrano

Rightsizing gives the Filipino consumer access to a wide range of products even during crisis

Jumbo Hotdog
Jumb
Cooking Oil
Pansit Canton
SHAMPOO
SOUP
SHAM P.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO AND LA MISTADES
PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

FOOD, SHELTER, EDUCATION AND health are still the priority for spending of the Filipino consumer in these difficult times. However, the share of how much is spent on what is changing.

Food, as a percentage of the consumer's budget, is decreasing although out-of-home consumption of food items is increasing.

Spending on housing and education is going up, while that for medical care, it seems, has remained the same.

What could all these mean? Are people eating less during times of crises? Is the promise of education good enough such that Filipinos see spending on education as an investment in better lives in the future? Does having a house provide a security so that whatever happens, the Filipino family has a place to go home to? And is health the only wealth one can possess during times of crises and is therefore non-negotiable?

Filipino consumers and the value they put on things are interesting.

Of the four, I will delve into what is most common, what is most basic: Food.

Food in terms of volume may not have actually gone down. Rather, the Filipino has found a way of satisfying hunger while keeping tabs of their spending. To the DE population, a pack of noodles, which costs about P5, would be a meal for a family of four.

Jollyjeeps

Cooking for the whole family has been replaced by *manang* and "jollyjeep" [owner-type jeep loaded with home-cooked food and which are usually parked at the back of office buildings] that offer a complete meal in a plastic bag enough to nourish an individual.

Three-in-one single-serve sachets allow for just right spending for a cup of coffee. We still get to enjoy the meals and the drink we want… for less.

Other than cost, the source of this basic commodity is also interesting to look into. The *sari-sari* store and wet market— traditional trading channels—remain very significant outlets patronized by Filipino consumers. Both channels remain important to the financially challenged shopper.

Venture a guess as to why this is so and chances are you would get it in the first try. *Tingi* and *tawad* are necessary skills the Filipino shopper has learned and mastered with years of managing increasing costs and tight budgets.

These are of course the traditional equivalent of modern trade's price cuts and sachet marketing. Half a cup of cooking oil, a stick of cigarette, a quarter bar of margarine… these are just a few of what is offered by the traditional channels.

Exciting

I now come to the exciting part and I would try to explain why of the four needs monitored, I chose to discuss food.

To manufacturers, understanding how a consumer deals with the most basic of his needs is critical. It is like watching a creature in his natural habitat. The displayed behavior should guide marketers on how this same consumer would act when introduced in a new environment.

If food is something that has to be had, crisis or no crisis, the manufacturer has to be able to provide it. When there is a need for food but buyers are strapped for cash, what is the manufacturer to do? Same volume demanded for less cost. This is where it gets exciting.

The trends we've seen are the growth of affordable products available in the market. This was done through downsizing strategies, premium-priced to low-priced products, convenience products, and patronage of traditional trading outlets.

Rightsizing

Downsizing and rightsizing strategies have been taken by makers of practically all fast-moving consumer goods. Pouches, sachets and 100-gram canned products have been introduced.

Rightsizing allows for affordability and gives the Filipino consumer access to a wide range of products even during critical times. This is the counterpart of the *tingi* strategy seen in traditional trading channels.

Opportunities may still abound for manufacturers, but in different forms.

Lutong bahay

Convenience products and outlets also help consumers cope during critical times. Instant noodles, flavorings and out-of-home food consumption have caught up with the Filipino consumer in a big way.

From the traditional flavors of yesteryears (beef, chicken and pork), noodle companies have developed flavors all the *lutong bahay* (home-cooked) lovers can dream of. The latest of which is the much-loved *sotanghon* variant. Even tuna manufacturers have come up with their line up of *kaldereta, ginataan, afritada* and *menudo* variants.

Value meals

Among fast food and delivery chains, value, kiddie, executive and student meals are offered. All come with drinks, French fries or salad. For groups, party packages are also available.

In a family of three or four, in which the husband and wife may be working, ordering food or eating out or having food to go instead of preparing a meal at home has become a necessity. A meal at home would require a complete stock of fresh food, ingredients, an equipped kitchen and culinary savvy—things that have become a luxury only a few can enjoy.

Male housewife

Recent studies show that some households in which the housewife is a "he," the appeal of the fast and the convenient is true. Canned goods, hotdog in packs and other processed meat are the staple.

The changing roles in, and size and structure of the family pave the way for the entry of convenience products, outlets and service offerings. Again, opportunities abound… and again in so many different forms.

The Philippines, which has 85 million people, is a land of many opportunities for manufacturers. It offers a large market base but consumers have very limited money to spend. Consumers are compelled to re-evaluate and prioritize needs over wants, and take drastic measures to cope with today's crises.

Food is a need and opportunities abound in offering an array of this most basic of commodities in affordable, convenient bite-sizes. The Philippine consumers' needs are interesting and responding to their distinct needs can be exciting.

(Capistrano is the managing director of ACNielsen Philippines, a leader in market research information and analysis.)

From LPG to firewood

YOU KNOW COOKING GAS PRICES have started to become less and less affordable when you see people going back to using charcoal and firewood in cooking their meals. And they have.

More and more Filipinos have started to rely less on liquefied petroleum gas, now that prices have spiraled to between P378 and P430.50 per 11-kg cylinder.

Industry data show that LPG sales dropped by almost 10 percent in the first half to 5,731,893 metric tons (MT) from 6,353,734 MT in the same period last year. This is not because people are conserving energy and cooking less.

Industry executives support this observation. Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. general manager for external affairs, says people are just seeking alternatives to LPG, using charcoal, firewood and kerosene instead.

While the alternatives are not necessarily cheaper, people resort to using them as they can be bought at amounts that can be consumed in a day or two, he explains.

The high prices of cooking gas have triggered the Filipino's *tingi* mentality—buying a small amount of charcoal or firewood for several days' consumption as opposed to buying an LPG cylinder for close to P400 or even more for a few weeks' worth of cooking.

Oil firms, which sell LPG, are now feeling the effect of this scrimping of sorts.

Petron Corp.'s LPG sales volume dropped 6 percent to 1.6 million barrels in the first half from 1.7 million barrels in the same period last year. Although this also includes sales to industrial customers such as National Power Corp., the company is not faring much better than its competitors.

Total (Philippines) Corp.'s TotalGaz brand experienced a 14-percent decline in sales in the first half due to the high price of LPG, Total corporate affairs manager Malou Espina says.

She says even people, who own small LPG cylinders that double as stoves—the so-called Super Kalan, depending on which brand one uses—utilize them sparingly, "usually only during the rainy season when there's no firewood."

More people taking MRT and LRT

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE riding the mass rail transport these days, especially after fares in jeeps and buses went up in June.

MRT 3 ridership used to average about 400,000 daily. Lately, the turnout had been about 420,000. Of course, the average excludes weekends and holidays when volume ranges between 200,000 and 250,000.

For a day, two weeks ago, we hit an all-time high of 465,000 passenger volume. I think it was a Wednesday and MRT 3 was still operating its midnight runs.

Extending the operations of MRT 3 and even the LRT was meant to encourage the public to take the mass trains because our fares are cheaper. We have not increased our fares since we started operations five years ago whereas jeeps and buses have gone through several increases already.

MRT still charges fares ranging from P10 to P15 for the entire 17-km stretch of North Edsa to Baclaran. Aircon buses already charge P10 for the first five km plus P1.75 for every succeeding kilometer [a total of P31 for the same distance].

(MRT 3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso)

Revenue in August for the two lines of the Light Rail Transit Authority reached P189 million compared with the monthly average of P180 million during schooldays.

We noticed a spike in ridership starting July. There are days when volume reached 360,000 whereas we used to average about 320,000 on weekdays.

It helped that we are running more trains, especially on Line 1. We now have 72 trains running the Monumento-to-Baclaran stretch, which is Line 1, after we repaired about six trains. With more trains, we serve more passengers and the turnaround time is faster.

Right now, the LRT is the cheapest form of transport. We have a two-tiered fare of P12 and P15 for the entire 14.5-km stretch of Line 1 and the 13.8-km Line 2. In contrast, jeeps now charge P7.50 for the first 4 km plus P1.25 for every additional distance [equivalent to P19.75 to P20.625 for the whole stretch of Lines 1 and 2].

With the LRT and MRT, we offer air-conditioned rides and no traffic. The problem is that government is forced to subsidize the operations of the railway because we have not increased our fares. Ours is a case of rising cost and steady fares. Fuel, electricity and wages have gone up but our fares are still the same.

(LRTA Administrator Mel Robles)

Orders for poultry products weaken

DEMAND FOR POULTRY PRODUCTS in the third quarter was quite weak. As a matter of fact, we have had some cancellations or lowering of orders though it's not across-the-board. Demand from institutional and commercial retail buyers has dropped, but we have not adjusted production. We are just building inventory stocks for the holiday season.

During the past six months, supply went up, affecting farm gate prices. For integrators (big agribusiness firms) prices range from P49 to P50 a kilo, but prices of commercial raisers are between P47 and P48 a kilo. The commercial sector sells at these prices because it sells mostly live birds and there is a narrow window to move them. Off-take arrangements for broiler integrators, who are also engaged in retailing, have also been affected.

Because of surging fuel prices, our production cost has increased but our selling prices are determined by supply and demand. The lowest retail price now is P80 a kilo and the highest is P110. We hope the demand during the holidays will improve.

(Rita Imelda Palabyab, president, Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators)

Demand from ham makers slips

OUR FARM GATE PRICES HAVE DECLINED because of low demand. At this time, we expect orders from manufacturers of hams in time for the holidays but we are not getting the usual surge of orders. People are really feeling the pangs of inflationary pressures and are holding on to whatever cash they have.

Wet market retailers to whom we sell our produce say buyers have lowered their usual purchase of pork products from one kilo to half or to even a fourth of a kilo. Our wet market customers now buy three hogs, down from the usual five. The difficulties have been felt beginning in the second quarter when rising fuel prices pushed up production costs.

In Manila, live weight price on the farm ranges from P82 to P86 a kilo compared with P88 to P95 a kilo during a good period. In the provinces, the farm gate price is lower at P72 to P74 a kilo, down from P78 to P80 per kilo. Retailers explain that the price at wet markets is still at P145 to P150 and has not declined because they say they need to recover additional costs.

(Albert R.T. Lim Jr., president, National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc.)

Liquor market softening

SAN MIGUEL CORP.'S SUBSIDIARY, Ginebra San Miguel Inc., has reported an 11-percent decrease in local sales volume to 15.4 million cases for the first seven months.

We attribute this primarily to the increase in prices of raw materials, which translate to higher prices of our products. In the first half of the year, we observed an increase in revenue despite a decrease in volume—we were selling fewer products at higher prices.

As for data covering January to July, the decrease in volume was seen both for our gin line (7 percent year-on-year) and our Vino Kulafu Chinese wine, which is popular in the provinces (51 percent).

Only the Gran Matador brandy, a relatively new product, showed strong sales with an increase of 112 percent. But this accounts for a small percentage of gin drinkers, who are shifting to brandy because of its perceived health benefits. Like wine, brandy is made from grapes and accords the drinker a *sosyal* status of sorts.

Amid the softening liquor market, we are experiencing rising cost pressures on raw materials like molasses, and rising taxes on our products.

(A San Miguel Corp. official, who asked not to be named.)

(Interviews by Abigail L. Ho, Clarissa S. Batino, Christine Gaylican and Ron Domingo.)

E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Nico A. Alconaba**

A haven for humanity in Butuan City

By Marrio Mapanao
Butuan City

MARTINA AND ANTONIO Ojarda, already in their 60s, have been setting aside at least P30 a day from their sales of *kalamay* (rice cake) for the past three years to settle their P653.40 monthly Habitat house amortization. They have seven years more to go and they remain optimistic.

Over the past five years, the Butuan Habitat for Humanity Foundation Inc. has built and dedicated 511 houses: 398 in Butuan City spread in 18 different sites; 41 houses in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur; and 72 houses in Surigao City.

The Butuan City government has provided a counterpart of 96 houses for informal settlers. There is an estimated backlog of 20,000 housing units in Butuan and Habitat International has approved the construction of 450 houses in Barangay Pagatpatan.

The Butuan Habitat is a volunteer-driven, non-profit, ecumenical ministry dedicated to helping eliminate poverty housing. Habitat works with families that are in need to build decent, affordable and durable homes which are sold to them without profit. The payments made are pooled into a revolving "Fund for Humanity" and plowed back to build more houses.

Partnerships have been forged with the city government, schools and churches, youth and student clubs and civic organizations.

House features

A typical Butuan Habitat single detached house, with a 36-sq.-m. floor area, costs P75,000, and is to be paid monthly for a period of 10-15 years or less. A distinct feature is the use of concrete interlocking block (CIB), which is a Habitat technology that has a particular style and mixture of ingredients, costs less and is said to be more durable.

The active participation in the construction by volunteers and the beneficiary-homepartners themselves in "sweat equity" has helped lower the house's cost.

In Barangay Pagatpatan, Habitat houses have a floor area each of 27 sq. m. with a lot area of 60 sq. m. Payment is spread over 15 years.

In March last year, Millard and Linda Fuller, Habitat for Humanity International founders dedicated two duplex housing units together with Mayor Leonides Teresa Plaza and Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

During the turnover, Zobel de Ayala, a Habitat national board member, was given a surprise with the birthday greeting from the beneficiaries. In turn, he gifted the community with a donation of P80,000, which is more than the cost of a house unit.

In 2002, a touring peace concert and fund-raising activity with the revived Asin folk band was able to generate an amount for one house.

Repayment scheme

The first and third Saturdays of the month are spent for the orientation of prospective homepartner applicants on the history/vision/mission/core values, house design/pre-construction, obligations and contracts. The fourth Saturday is set for house dedication and meetings.

With the active involvement and bonding of the Board with the homepartners, the repayments rates have consistently held at 90 percent.

In the Jan. 28 fifth anniversary celebration at the 3H Farm in Barangay Bit-os, the 15 most outstanding homepartners were awarded for not reneging on their monthly amortization payments over the prescribed number of years. There were 13 outstanding homepartners, meaning those who may have had delayed payments, but have since caught up on payment of their dues. Nine homepartners have fully paid for their houses.

The Habitat Development Cooperative has also started the Habit Pure spring mineral water income generating project. The slogan is: "Drink Habit Pure and help build a home!" The Habit Pure water habit is picking up, with the processed spring water from Barangay Bit-os.

In the savings group in Barangay Pagatpatan, eight bicycles have been secured on a loan basis to help ease mounting transport costs, and in the process, promote health fitness.

A non-Habitat neighbor said: "*Maayo pa mo, naa mo'y lig-on na balay, naa pa gyud pakapin na bisekleta* (Good for you, you have a durable house with a bicycle as add on)."

International recognition

Unknown to the public, the Butuan Habitat affiliate has been garnering awards, some with a cash prize.

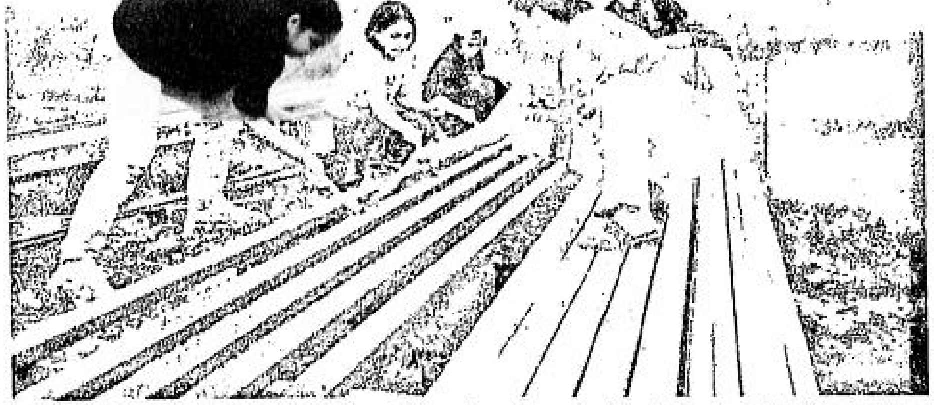
The first major award that bested 35 other country affiliates, was an affiliate in excellence award and honorable mentions for board and resource development in its first year of operations in 2000-2001.

In 2003, the International Board of Directors gave it the Asia-Pacific award for excellence in partnership development. For volunteer program administrator Jowena Jan Hiponia, the Board gave her the Nehemiah award for distinguished volunteer service.

In September 2004, the Butuan affiliate got the Habitat International Asia-Pacific Leadership Conference award for capacity building and partnership development. At the same time, Butuan Habitat chair Samuel Jonathan Hiponia was given the Nehemiah award for distinguished volunteer service.

The organization's cash prizes have gone to the development of an 8.3-hectare environmental sanctuary farm in Barangay Bit-os called the Habitat for Humanity Haven (3H); helping provide the start up capital for the Habit Pure spring mineral water business and the development and capacity building of homepartners.

For those who would like to inquire, learn from their poverty housing alleviation experience or participate in whatever positive way, the Butuan Habitat for Humanity Foundation Inc. can be reached at their office on J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City 8600, with telephone number (085) 342 0903 and e-mail: bxuhfhi@yahoo.com.



VOLUNTEERS from Philhealth paint steel trusses used for house roofing for the Butuan Habitat for Humanity project. DOMINI SEBASTIAN DEL ROSARIO, CONTRIBUTOR

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NFA plans to increase rice prices

SORSOGON CITY—THE NATIONAL FOOD AUthority is planning to increase the price of rice it is selling to the public amid the continuing increase in prices of basic commodities as a result of the increase in oil prices.

This was learned from an unnumbered memorandum of Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya to acting Trade Secretary Peter Favila dated Aug. 30, 2005, which was discussed during the meeting of the provincial Local Price Coordinating Council here.

In her memorandum, Maglaya said the proposal was made by NFA Administrator Gregorio Tan during the meeting of the NFA Council presided over by Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban and attended by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, among other members.

Based on the proposal of the NFA administrator, regular milled rice, which is currently being sold at P16 per kilo, would eventually be sold at P18.50 or an increase of 15.6 percent, while well-milled rice will be sold at P19.50 from its current price of P18 or an increase of 8.3 percent.

The NFA official's argument for proposing the increase was to reduce NFA's trading losses being incurred in the sale of rice.

According to NFA, the break-even cost for local rice is P20.40 per kilo and P16.02 for imported rice without tariff, and P24.73 with tariff.

The NFA said it would incur this year a trading loss of P900 million to P1.1 billion for local rice and P620 million to P6.97 billion for imported rice.

The agency also argued that increasing the price of government rice would minimize irregularities in its trading, like stock diversion.

Some members of the NFA Council, however, argued that raising the prices would cause increases in prices of commercial rice.

They also stressed that it would also cause upward inflation as rice constitutes 28 percent of Filipinos' food expenditures.

Maglaya recommended to Favila that, if ever the government decides to effect an increase, it should be done during harvest time when prices are usually low and it should be limited to well-milled rice at P20 per kilo.

Meanwhile, NFA announced that it will soon start buying *palay* from farmers at a slightly higher price.

NFA provincial manager Cesar Barcelona said NFA will be buying *palay* at P10 per kilo plus an additional 15 centavos as drying fee, 10 centavos for transportation and 25 centavos as cooperative development fee.

Barcelona said they have P1.4 million standby fund and the NFA plans to purchase some 15,000 bags of *palay* during the coming harvest season. ***Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Bomb planted at PDEA Baguio office defused

BAGUIO CITY—POLICEMEN here defused a pipe bomb found in front of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency office at Burnham Park on Saturday morning.

Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, city police chief, said the explosive chemicals were packed in an eight-inch high PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipe and had a timing device and a blasting cap.

The bomb, had it not been defused, would have destroyed half of the Melvin Jones stage at the Burnham Park, Nerez said. The PDEA office is located below the stage.

"It was really intended for PDEA personnel and we believe it was an organized illegal drug group that set up the device," he said.

He said the bomb was capable of killing or hurting people and destroying property within a range of 25 meters.

The bomb, which was wrapped in a blue shopping bag, was placed in front of the PDEA office door. A PDEA utility man found the bomb at about 3:45 a.m. and reported it to policemen there.

Nerez said the bomb, which was set to explode at 7 a.m., was defused at past 4 a.m.

He said the explosion was set at a time when many jogger and walkers from Burnham Park would be passing near the PDEA office.

He said the bomb, whose blast power was equivalent to 25 hand grenades combined, was "expertly done."

Chief Insp. Gil Calagan, a PDEA officer, said his agency has initial suspects as to who set up the bomb, noting that the PDEA has been handling major drug-related cases.

"We have no doubt that the intended victim was PDEA. But what was also significant was the ones who set up the bomb really have knowledge of improvised explosives," Nerez said.

He said Senior Insp. Amador Orcino, who had just finished a 45-day training from the antiterrorism assistance unit at the Louisiana State Police Academy, defused the bomb using tools donated by the United States. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

FRANKLIN CALIGUID/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SURIGAO FEAST
Performers transform the streets of Claver, Surigao del Norte into a stage as they perform during Surigao City's 6th annual Bonok-Bonok street dancing contest Sept. 9.

Joey Lozano, PDI man, dies of colon cancer

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—JOSE Rizal Lozano, INQUIRER correspondent covering indigenous peoples and environment, died of colon cancer on Friday night. He was 55.

His wife, Renee, told the INQUIRER that Joey, as he is fondly called, did not suffer excessive pain unlike most cancer victims.

He was diagnosed with the illness only this year.

But years ago, Renee recalled, there were times when her husband complained of stomach ache, and every time she would ask him to consult a doctor, he would just say "It's OK."

It was in December last year when Joey's health started to deteriorate. He would often complain he was feeling weak and exhausted. In January, Renee was able to convince Joey to see a doctor when they found a "palpable mass" just above his belly.

He went through a series of medical check-ups. An ultrasound conducted on him showed a thickening outer layer of his colon, Renee said.

His love for work, however, made him skip thorough medical examination.

Renee said Joey every now and then traveled to various places like Jolo and Bukidnon in pursuit of his writing profession.

In July, a colonoscopy conducted on him revealed a stage 3 cancer. He was admitted at the Howard Hubbard Memorial Hospital in Polomolok, South Cotabato in July.

He was brought to the intensive care unit of St. Elizabeth Hospital on Aug. 14, but because of his own prodding, he was transferred to their residence in Banga town, South Cotabato on Aug. 30.

There, Renee revealed, a mini-ICU, equipped with medical apparatus necessary for his treatment, was put up. His doctor regularly visited him there, while a special nurse was hired just to attend to his needs.

Joey joined the INQUIRER Mindanao Bureau in the early 1990s.

Prior to that, he was an active NGO worker focusing mostly on advancing the cause of the oppressed and underprivileged.

He also wrote for the defunct Media Mindanao News Service and Concern, a diocesan-run community newspaper in Koronadal, South Cotabato known for its anti-Marcos and pro-poor stance.

In September 2000, he was awarded a 6-month activist fellowship by the Human Rights Program of the Center for International Studies at the University of Chicago.

He is a member of the board a New York City-based human rights group, Witness, which was founded in 1991 by musician Peter Gabriel and the Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights to put new technologies into the hands of local activists around the world.

Renee described life with a journalist-husband as "tough, but definitely never boring."

His remains will be brought early next week to Davao City for cremation. The date for burial has not yet been set.

He had one request before he died. He wanted that his ashes be spread in places like Jolo, Bukidnon and, of course, his hometown. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Boy with 'hole' in heart needs help, donations

BACOOR, CAVITE—CHRISTIAN AZUELA wants to go to school but his Grade 2 teacher does not want him to.

She does not want to see another pupil die in her class, according to his father Lonesto.

"She had a trauma when a pupil died from heart attack while classes were going on. She said she did not want it to happen again," Lonesto said.

His heart breaks because all that his 8-year-old son wanted was to go to school.

The 30-year-old welder from Poblacion East, Rosario, La Union stays in a house under construction in Bacoor, Cavite until his welding job is over.

He said his son, who stays with his mother Maribeth in Rosario, La Union, was born with a ventricular septal defect in which the wall between the longest chambers of the heart does not finish forming. A "hole" is thus formed.

"When my son is tired from playing or simply from walking, his heart beats four times faster than an average person's," Azuela said.

He said since 2004, his son has been complaining of chest pains.

"We are doing everything to save his life," he said. An operation, he said, would cost P81,000. *Santiago R. Alcantara*

Those who want to help Christian can contact Azuela at 0918-6247904.

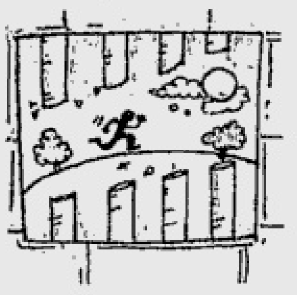
ROUNDUP

3 killed in Batangas fire

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A rich couple and their 4-year-old son were killed after fire razed their house in Barangay San Pio Quinto, Malvar, Batangas early Friday morning. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said victims Rodel Fortaza, his wife Eleonor and son Raymund, were sleeping at the master bedroom when the fire broke out around 2:20 a.m. Verzosa said the initial investigation of the local fire department revealed that the fire started from one of the five vehicles parked at the garage of the victims. The vehicles were Ford Explorer, Pajero, Crosswind, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla. He said the fire quickly spread, engulfing the remaining four vehicles and the house of the couple. Responding firefighters were able to put out the fire only two hours later.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 escapees from Cavite jail hunted



CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Cavite police are hunting down an escapee from the Cavite City police jail along with two other inmates on Tuesday night. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said Larry Mendoza, a robbery suspect bolted jail, along with Jovy Prudente and Ramir Santos, at around 9 p.m. after cutting off the iron grills of the jail. Prudente and Santos, however, were rearrested a few hours after escaping. A Cavite police official, who asked not to be identified, said initial reports indicated that Mendoza's mother was able to hand the suspect a small iron saw when she visited her son a few days ago. The source added that they had relieved SPO3 Virgilio Loyola and a certain PO1 Marvin Agabin, the duty officers when the jailbreak took place.

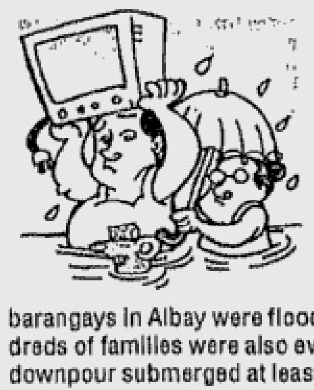
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Meeting with New Zealand Army chief

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Adan has shared notes on the antiterror campaign with New Zealand Army chief Maj. Gen. Jeremiah Mateparae on Thursday. "He was very interested [with] the challenges confronting the AFP in the campaign against terror and insurgency, and he was also particular with our timetable," Adan told reporters. The new Southcom chief said Mateparae also wanted to know the role of nongovernment organizations with the AFP. Mateparae and other New Zealand Army officials arrived here and met with their Philippine counterparts in what they call "a relationship mission." Mateparae said they were here to know "how we can improve our relationship with the Philippines."

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hundreds evacuated due to heavy rains



AT LEAST 400 persons from Barangay Tagaytay in Camalig, Albay were evacuated on Thursday due to heavy rains, according to the Office of Civil Defense in Legazpi City. The OCD also said in a report that Libon town was not passable to all types of vehicles on Friday, as the flood hit six of its barangays. Arnel Capili, regional OCD director, said other areas affected by the floods were Oas, Guinobatan, Polangui, Jovellar and Ligao City. A total of 21 barangays in Albay were flooded. In Cavite and Rizal provinces, hundreds of families were also evacuated to higher grounds as a heavy downpour submerged at least 30 barangays on Friday, according to the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in Calabarzon. Armando Duque, Calabarzon RDCC chair, said more than 100 families were evacuated in several barangays in Angono and Binangonan towns in Rizal early Friday morning after water overflowed from creeks and rivers. Duque said hundreds of families were also affected in Naic, Kawit, General Trias and Bacoor in Cavite. Rubber boats have been sent to evacuate residents in Bacoor, Duque said.

Gil Francis G. Arevalo and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Love for books is also good business

By Margaux C. Ortiz

IT ALL STARTED WITH A BUSINESS IDEA AND a young man's profound love of books.

For more than five decades now, Popular Bookstore has been the favorite haunt of people from all walks of life, from engineering students looking for reference books to liberals, budding writers, and lovers of the written word in general.

From its unpretentious nook tucked in Doroteo Jose Street in the heart of Manila, where it had established a distinct character for selling rare and progressive books to journalists and intellectuals, the owners moved the bookstore to its new home on Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City in 2001.

"We had problems with floods and parking in Manila, and we lost a significant number of customers in the University Belt because of the proliferation of schools in the metropolis," Geraldine "Dina" Po, daughter of Popular Bookstore founder Joaquin Po, said.

Dina now manages Popular with her two older sisters, Jackie P. Co and Katherine P. Palomera.

"It was in Manila, however, where Popular gained its reputation as a one-of-a-kind bookstore. Many book lovers made great sacrifices taking long trips from different parts of Metro Manila, and the provinces to visit the store," she added.

Dina said her father and his three younger brothers put up Popular Bookstore in 1946, aiming to cater to students of nearby Mapua Institute of Technology and University Belt schools.

Shortly after World War II, Joaquin's younger brothers—Alfredo, Vicente, and Jesus—began peddling old magazines from the United States to earn money.

"They got the magazines from ships docked in Manila's ports, put these in a cart, and sold them in Sta. Cruz and nearby areas," Dina said, adding that the brothers had no choice but to look for ways to survive after their father left them to go back to China.

Joaquin, who stopped his mining engineering course at Mapua to support his family, then worked as a clerk at the Department of Education. The brothers soon put up their own stall in Rosario Street, Binondo, where they sold fruits and magazines.

"But because fruits were perishable, they decided to concentrate on magazines," Dina said.

The Po brothers opened Popular Bookstore on Doroteo Jose in the late 1940s, with Joaquin as manager.

They started importing pocketbooks, then a new phenomenon, and offered them along with engineering books that sold well to teachers and students.

STILL Popular after almost 50 years, the bookstore that grew out of a man's love for books now proudly stands at a new address on Tomas Morato, Quezon City. ROGER CARPIO

"My father loved books so much he would painstakingly read a particular book's reviews and description before importing it," Dina recalled, adding that Joaquin would also read the books first before selling them.

Dina also emphasized that most of the materials sold at the store had encouraged her father's progressive way of thinking.

Thus, Popular's shelves were filled with banned and controversial books that later became classics such as John Cleland's "Fanny Hill," DH Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover," J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye," John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" and Henry Miller's "Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn."

Because the bookstore was then located near the offices of well-known broadsheets like the old Manila Times and the Manila Chronicle, respected journalists and intellectuals also frequented Popular to hang out and browse through its wide array of titles.

But his association with journalists, progressive thinkers and leftists sometimes got him into trouble, Dina recalled.

"He was tortured and detained in 1951 for being the manager of (nationalist writer and labor advocate) Amado V. Hernandez's favorite bookstore," Dina said, adding that her father was released after the media made waves about the incident and pressured the government into setting him free.

When martial law was declared in 1972, Joaquin was invited by the military to explain why he was selling "communist books."

"He gave a really classic answer that led to his immediate release," Dina said with a grin, "Dad told them he was selling those books because he was a capitalist and those were the titles that sold well."

Dina said they had maintained their father's shopkeeper's style even after his death in 1998.

"Our father influenced us to do business not for the money but for the love of it," Dina explained.

She also said that sticking to Popular's original unique character was the only way for them to survive with the mushrooming of giant bookstore chains and fancy book shops.

"It's good to know that there are still plenty of book lovers out there," Dina said, adding that regular clients visit Popular Bookstore for rare finds.

Dina said that through the years, she and her siblings have seen how the bookstore set trends for readers: from books concentrating on philosophy in the '50s, revolutionary ideas in the '60s, progressive materials in the '70s, occult stuff in the '80s, and over-all wellness literature in the '90s.

"We have learned from experience that it is important to give people what they do not ask for," Dina explained, adding that setting trends would expose book enthusiasts to different philosophies and realities.

"More than thinking of the profits, that should be our role: set the direction for people and provide them with different world views," she emphasized.

LIKE father, like daughter: Joaquin (left) and Dina Po.

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PTAA IATA

Folk get dirty for Manila Bay

**By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Tina G. Santos**

THE CITIES OF MANILA AND Parañaque led thousands of volunteers yesterday in cleaning up portions of the Manila Bay coastline.

Getting their hands dirty in celebrating the 20th International Coastal Cleanup yesterday morning, at least 15,000 people from the private and public sectors swept the shores of the bay and removed tons of garbage and debris.

In Parañaque, students from St. Paul College and AMA Computer College and members of the Coast Guard trooped to the Fisherman's Whart, or *Bulungan*, in Barangay La Huerta for the cleanup drive.

The activity was organized by the city's Solid Waste Environmental Sanitation Office and Barangay La Huerta.

"We are encouraging students to help the government solve the problem of proper garbage segregation and disposal and maintain cleanliness in the environment," said Mayor Florencio Bernabe yesterday.

Bernabe also urged fish seller at *Bulungan* to join the government in keeping the coast clean.

He reminded them that maintaining cleanliness would help prevent the spread of diseases.

The local government provided dump trucks, row boats and cleaning materials while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources supplied sacks and disposable gloves that were used in collecting garbage.

Going north along the bay, 15,000 volunteers became trash pickers for a few hours in Manila, where they cleaned the stretch of beach from the Manila Yatch Club to the United States embassy.

Rafael Borromeo, chief of the city's Department of Public Safety, said the local government had been regularly cleaning the bay.

"We are the catch basin and trash from other cities accumulate here," he said, referring to garbage that flows down through Metro Manila's rivers and waterways.

At least eight garbage trucks and Coast Guard boats were on hand to haul trash.

Later, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza appealed to residents and private and government officials to help maintain a clean coastline.

"There should be a concerted effort by the LGUs (local government units) to revive the bay," he said.

He noted that international cargo vessels contribute to the accumulation of garbage when these throw their refuse in the bay.

METROBRIEFS

Mooncake fest rained out

BINONDO'S Chinese-Filipino community had to forego of festivities for this year's Autumn Moon or Mooncake Festival because of rain. The Manila government was supposed to lead the celebration Friday afternoon, but organizers had to cancel it at the last minute due to heavy rain, city officials said. Event organizers had lined up several activities for the traditional Chinese festival, including a parade, dragon and lion dance and display of colorful lanterns, *Tina G. Santos*

2 flood fatalities found

THE BODIES of two of the three persons who went missing in Muntinlupa City amid heavy rain Friday were recovered yesterday. Residents of Sitio Tuklas, Barangay Cupang, reported that at 5:30 a.m. Alexander Bihag, 24, was found floating in a creek bordering Barangay Alabang-Cupang. Bihag and two of his nieces, Angel and Allison Analupa, aged 1 and 2, were swept away by a strong current in Pasong Diablo creek. Angel was also later found in Laguna de Bay. *Jo R. Uy*

Search for 'Redempta boys'

THE ST. Theresa's College Manila (STCM) Foundation is tracking down the school's male kindergarten graduates from 1927 to 1980, who were pupils of the late Belgian nun, Mother Redempta Biltereyst. The foundation, which is spearheading the re-establishment of STCM, is building a database on the "Redempta Boys" to enlist their support and tap their expertise for the project. Redempta boys may contact the STCM Foundation at 884-2909 or email stcmfound@pacific.net.ph . A beloved icon of STCM, Mother Redempta arrived from Belgium in 1927 and taught kindergarten girls and boys until the school was closed in 1980. She later did volunteer work at the National Orthopedic Hospital. Among the Redempta boys are economist Sixto Roxas Jr., conductor Oscar Yatco, Jesuit priests Jaime Bulatao and Jose Cruz, businessmen Bobby Guevara and Johnny Litton, marketing executives Albert Anido and Renato S. Ira, entertainment personalities Gary Valenciano and Ricky Dabao, journalist Danilo-Luis M. Mariano and the late Pancho Magalona, Roman Cruz Jr. and Jose "Peping" Z. Apostol.

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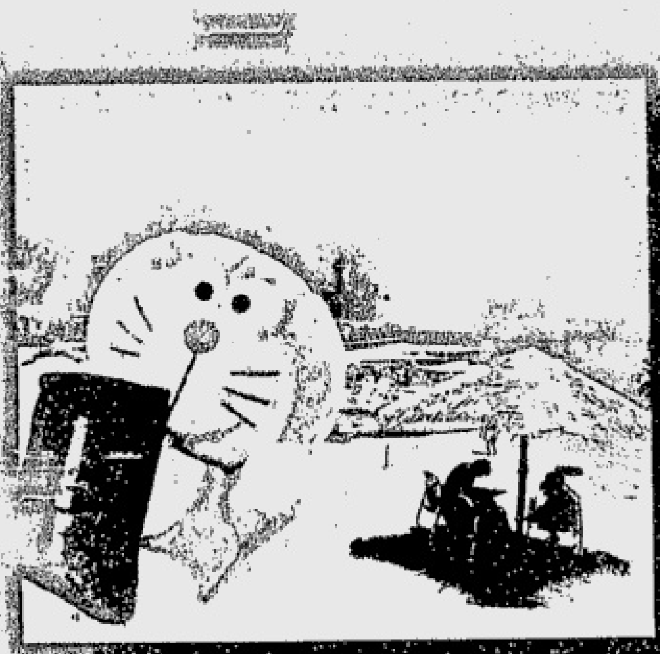
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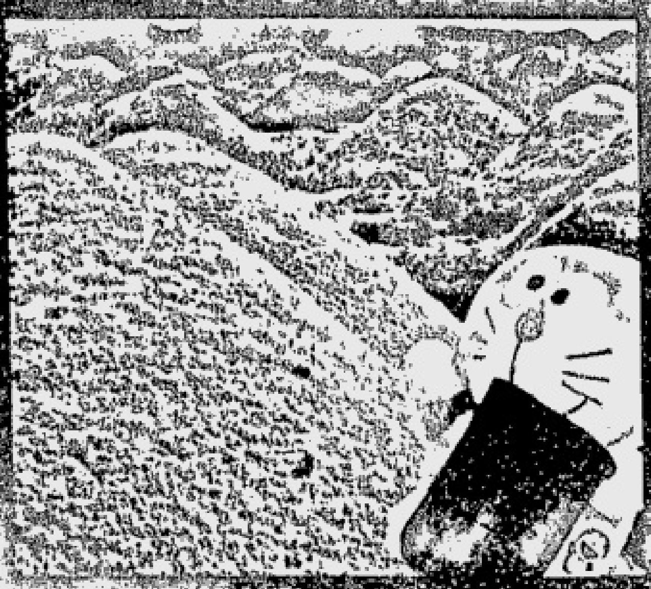
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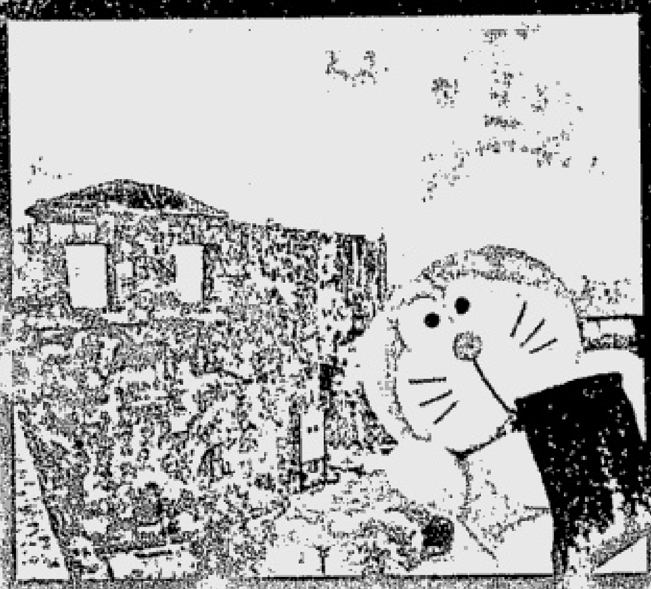
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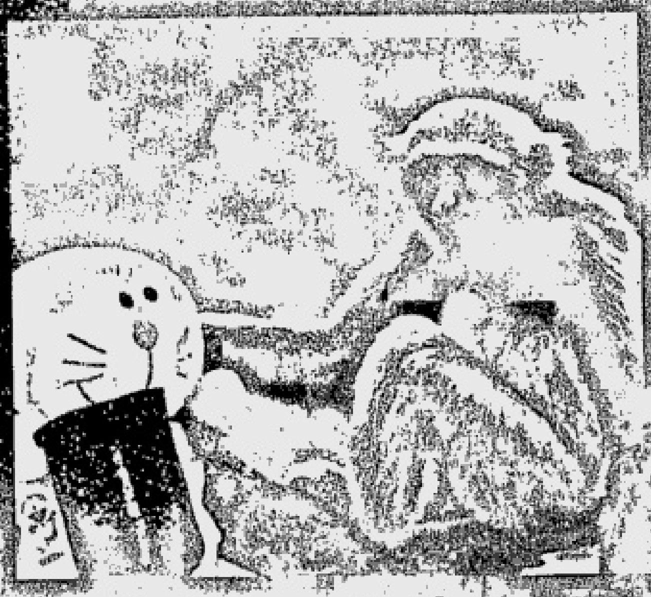
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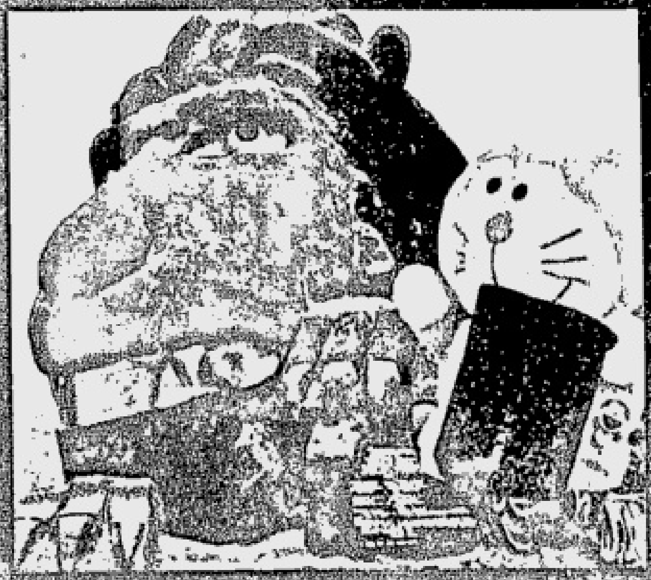
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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BOXING: Barrera vs Peden; 10 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Check out this championship bout featuring the Mexican champion.

BASEBALL: MLB – A's vs Red Sox; 7 a.m. (r-3 p.m. and 8 p.m.); ESPN—Oakland takes on Boston in the AL.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

CHEERDANCE TILT: Precise routine executions key defending champion UST's victory in the UAAP cheerdance competition yesterday. The UP pep squad placed 2nd while the FEU cheering squad emerged 3rd.

UE, La Salle settle score

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (Women's)
4 p.m.—UE vs La Salle (Srs)

THEY'VE PLAYED TWO CLIFFHANGER-TYPE games, both of which ended with a pair of protests and a lot more hard feelings.

And they're going at it for a third time.

The La Salle Archers and the University of the East Warriors, linked together by coaches who share the same bloodline, will fight for the remaining twice-to-beat advantage in the UAAP basketball tournament at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Pumaren brothers—Franz's Archers and Dindo's Warriors—will square off for the third time after the UAAP board ordered a replay of their controversial second-round game.

"It will be a game of stamina, of wanting to prove something," said Franz.

A La Salle win would forge a three-way tie with UE and Ateneo at 10-4. But the defending champions would gain the No. 2 slot outright due to a superior quotient.

A UE victory would give the Warriors a second-best record at 11-3. Thus, the Warriors would be armed with a twice-to-beat advantage against the third-seed Eagles in the Final Four, while the league-leading Far Eastern U Tamaraws get to face the Archers in the other semifinal pairing.

The teams' two matches this season were tight and controversial. Acting on the Warriors' game protest, the league's technical committee nullified La Salle's 86-83 overtime win last Sept. 1 and declared UE the winner. La Salle filed an appeal, prompting the UAAP board to order a replay.

In the first round, the Archers also contested their 56-57 setback against the Warriors. La Salle cited alleged non-calls on goal tending violations, but the league dismissed the complaint.

Meanwhile, the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe bagged their fourth straight title in the Nestlé Non-Stop Cheerdance Competition yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

UST scored 90.98 percent to claim the P130,000 grand prize. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Rookies deliver for SLR

HIGHLY-TOUTED rookie Alex Cabagnot got a passing mark in his debut in a Sta. Lucia uniform, guiding the Realtors to an 83-81 win over Red Bull in a PBA pre-season game Friday at the New Era College gym.

Two days after formally signing a three-year contract with Sta. Lucia, the league's No. 2 overall draft pick showed a glimpse of what he can do as he managed to finish with eight points and kept his poise in the face of the tough defense applied on him by the Barakos.

He also set up fellow rookie Cesar Catli for a big three-pointer at the corner that put the Realtors on top for good in the closing seconds, 79-75.

Catli also had a big breakout game, scoring 16 points.

PBA bids to play at Lakers' court

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASsociation is hoping to get the feel of playing in a National Basketball Association atmosphere soon.

Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday said the pro league has been negotiating with a United States-based promoter on the possibility of bringing its games to the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

The home of the NBA's LA Lakers, the Staples Center was in the limelight last Sunday when it hosted a boxing card that became memorable when Manny Pacquiao and two other Filipino fighters posted knockout wins.

"We're seriously looking at the possibility of bringing it there," Eala told the INQUIRER. "Right now, we're trying to work out a deal with a promoter based in LA."

The pro league wants to schedule a doubleheader at the Staples Center before or during the all-Filipino second conference in March next year, Eala said.

"It is part of the PBA's commitment to bring the games to the fans. It will cater to the Filipino community there," said Eala, who explained that both games would count as regular season games.

The 31st season of Asia's first play-for-pay league kicks off on Oct. 2 with an import-laced conference that will last until March 2006.

After a two-week break, the all-Filipino conference begins on the same month.

Once approved, the PBA will raffle off the four slots to the nine teams. Along with their Staples Center experience, the four ballclubs will also promote the league and stay in LA for at least three days.

Aside from the US trip, the PBA has also calendared doubleheaders in Taipei during the first conference and games in Guam and Indonesia for the All-Filipino Cup as well.

Eala said a total of 16 local out-of-town sorties are scheduled for the coming season on top of at least three overseas destinations.

Among the provinces the league would visit are Tubod in Lanao del Norte, Zamboanga City, Capiz, Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro, Ormoc, Lucena City and Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

Eight out-of-town games will be played on each conference, 12 of them to be held in the south.

Opening may lure 250,000

THE PHILIPPINE SOUTHEAST ASIAN Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) will be spending close to P50 million for the staging of the opening and closing ceremonies of the coming 23rd Games.

Luneta will be the site of the opening on Nov. 27 where close to 250,000 people are expected. Sadly, the Philsoc doesn't have a Plan B in case of heavy rains like Metro Manila is experiencing the past three days.

* * *

BASKETBALL is still in the SEAG calendar despite the suspension of the country from the international federation (Fiba).

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the Philippine Olympic Committee chief, will be flying to Geneva to appeal with Fiba sec-gen Patrick Baumann, who imposed the suspension on the Philippines following the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines from the POC. *Musong Castillo*

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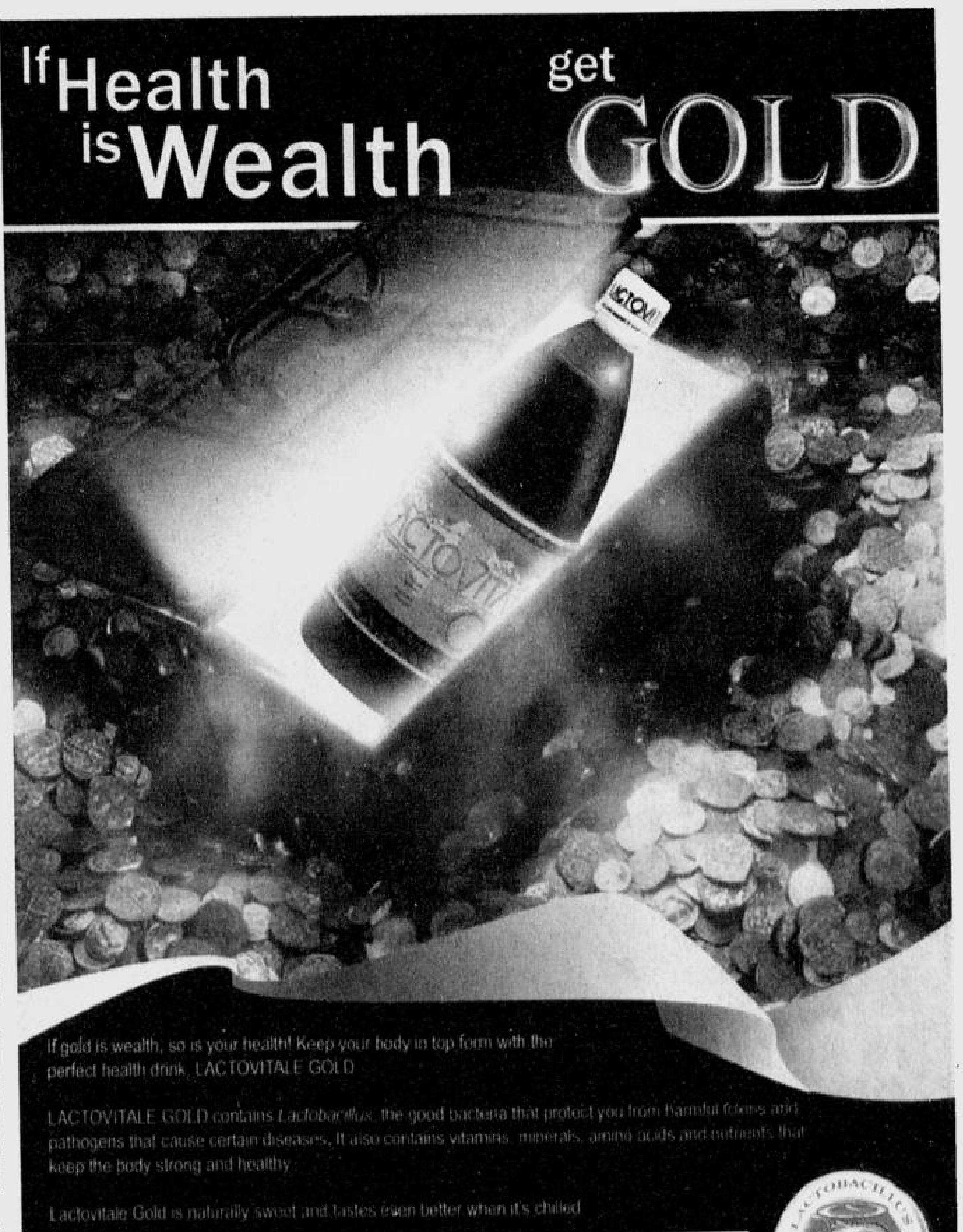
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Team CRG bolsters roster for Shell kart superseries

ALVAREZ

THE CEBU RACING GROUP BEEFED up its chances for four major titles at stake following a successful homecoming campaign in the 2005 Shell Karting Superseries recently at the Kart Zone in Cebu.

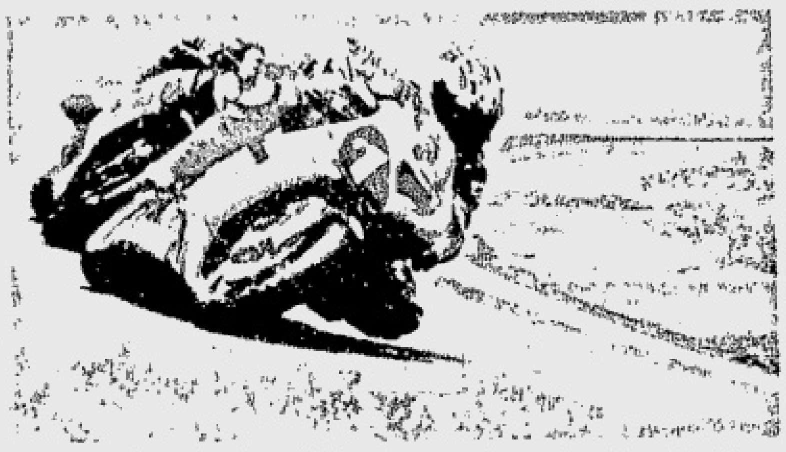
Karter of the Year and CRG skipper Matteo Guidicelli moved a step away from his title-retention bid with his big win in the premiere Intercon-A class, arranging an exciting showdown against Michele Bumgarner for the coveted plum in the championship round this October.

Despite winding up fourth, Guidicelli also remains in strong contention for the Rotax Max Seniors together with teammate Ivan Carapiet who kept third place in the overall standings.

Young recruits John Alvarez and John Vencer Suba also posted impressive finishes in the Cadet 60 Expert and Cadet 60 Novice classes, respectively, and are expected to deliver the top plums for Team CRG, supported by Animax-AXN, Paramount Insurance, Prestige Cars BMW, Addict Mobile-AMP, Pepsi, Swatch, Penshoppe and Oakley.

Because of their tremendous improvement throughout the season, both Alvarez and Suba will be moving up to higher classes next year.

"The team that started in Cebu has grown as the country's top karting team and is now up for major titles at stake," said CRG team director Gianluca Guidicelli. "Definitely, Team CRG will be preparing hard for the exciting championship round next month."



JOLET Jao (No. 1) and Benjo Mendoza were in a neck-and-neck battle before both spun out with two laps to go and gave Wacky del Rosario the victory at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Baras hosts Endurocross Sept. 25

ALL IS SET for the 4th Endurocross—a new trend of nonstop racing competition on Sept. 25 (Sunday) at Sta. Lucia's Palo Alto Racetrack in Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal. Team riders can expect challenging obstacles, according to KP5 president and organizer Nani Pazcoguin. For details, call 0915-4026625, 0918-3715443, 0922-3258413.

Del Rosario stuns Superbikes stars

ROSARIO, Batangas—The expected showdown between defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance and arch rival Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex came into an unfortunate ending as Wacky del Rosario lorded over the fifth leg of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

The crowd was looking forward to another neck-and-neck battle after Mendoza prevailed anew over Jao in the morning race.

The two fought for the lead in the early goings of the final moto until Mendoza finally wrested the pole with two laps to go.

Mendoza, however, miscalculated his move at the hairpin and got into a spill that forced him out of the race.

Jao then slammed into the barrier, enabling Del Rosario to pass both of them and win the 10-lap race in 21:08.418 seconds.

OPENS SEPT. 21
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Sy eyes 1st AF3 win

Tyson ripe for victory, says Edgen

SPEEDTECH ASIA team principal Edgen Dy-Liacco is convinced that his team leader, Tyson Sy, is set to register his first win in the fifth leg of the Asian Formula Three Series (AF3) this weekend in Sentul, Indonesia.

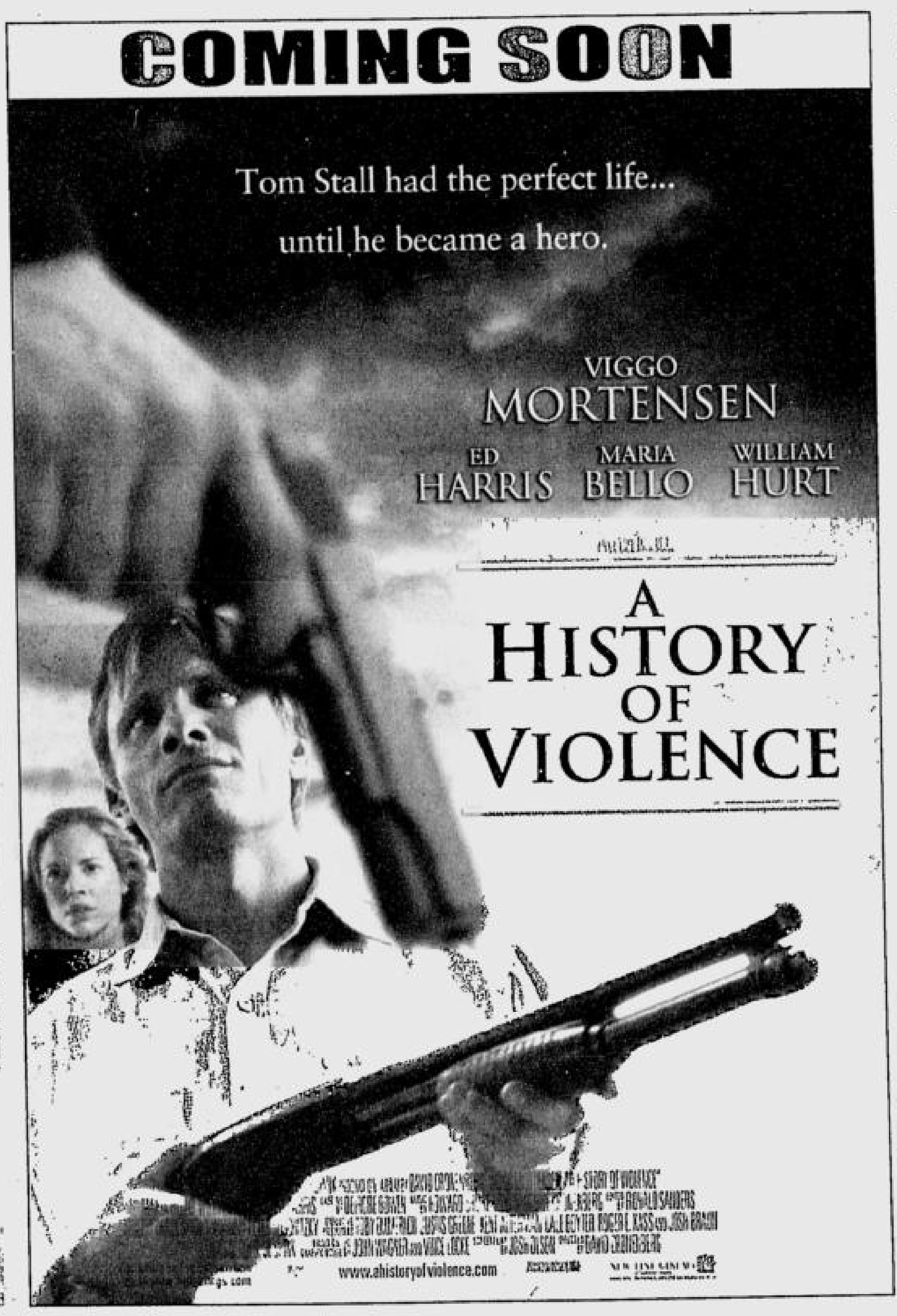
BOGOR, INDONESIA—BARRING ANY FOUL-ups at the starting line, Tyson Sy looks to keep his rivals in the rearview mirror and take the checkered flag from pole position in Race 9 of the Asian Formula Three Series Sunday at the Sentul International Circuit here.

For the third time, Sy, 17, grabbed the top spot on the starting grid with an awesome performance in the qualifying session Saturday, clocking one minute and 24.306 seconds and fueling his bid to score a breakthrough win in the nation-hopping series visiting Indonesia for the second time this year.

"Hopefully I won't make a mistake," said Sy. "I messed up the last time because I was a little bit nervous. This time, I hope to stay in front."

Briton James Winslow of Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO registered the second-best qualifying time of 1:24.527 to join Sy on the front. Australian defending champion Christian Jones of Christian Jones Motorsport (1:24.621) and series leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia (1:24.820), racing for Fastron Racing with Threebond, took the second-row spots.

Mikola leads the series with 115 points on five wins and a runner-up finish, but has adopted a conservative plan for Round 9 on Sunday morning and Race 10 in the afternoon. A win will give him the title outright.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Soriano notches thrilling victory

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Veteran street rider Hubert Soriano scored a thrilling victory in the Road Racing Championships (RRC) at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently, nipping Renan Morales in what turned out to be the day's most thrilling race.

Battling tooth and nail right from the start of the RRC's second race, Soriano pounced on a miscalculated move by Morales in the stretch and scooted home to victory by a wheel amidst the cheers of the motley Sunday crowd.

Soriano, who is sponsored by Teknics, Racing Tire Marketing, Bridgestone, One Kennedy Place (Greenhills), Ganzklar and Mipro, clocked 25:22.153 to Morales' 25:22.243.

Kiko Beech placed third with a time of 25:37.565 while Jay Carreon and Jotel Viray emerged fourth and fifth with times of 26:05.537 and 26:16.175.

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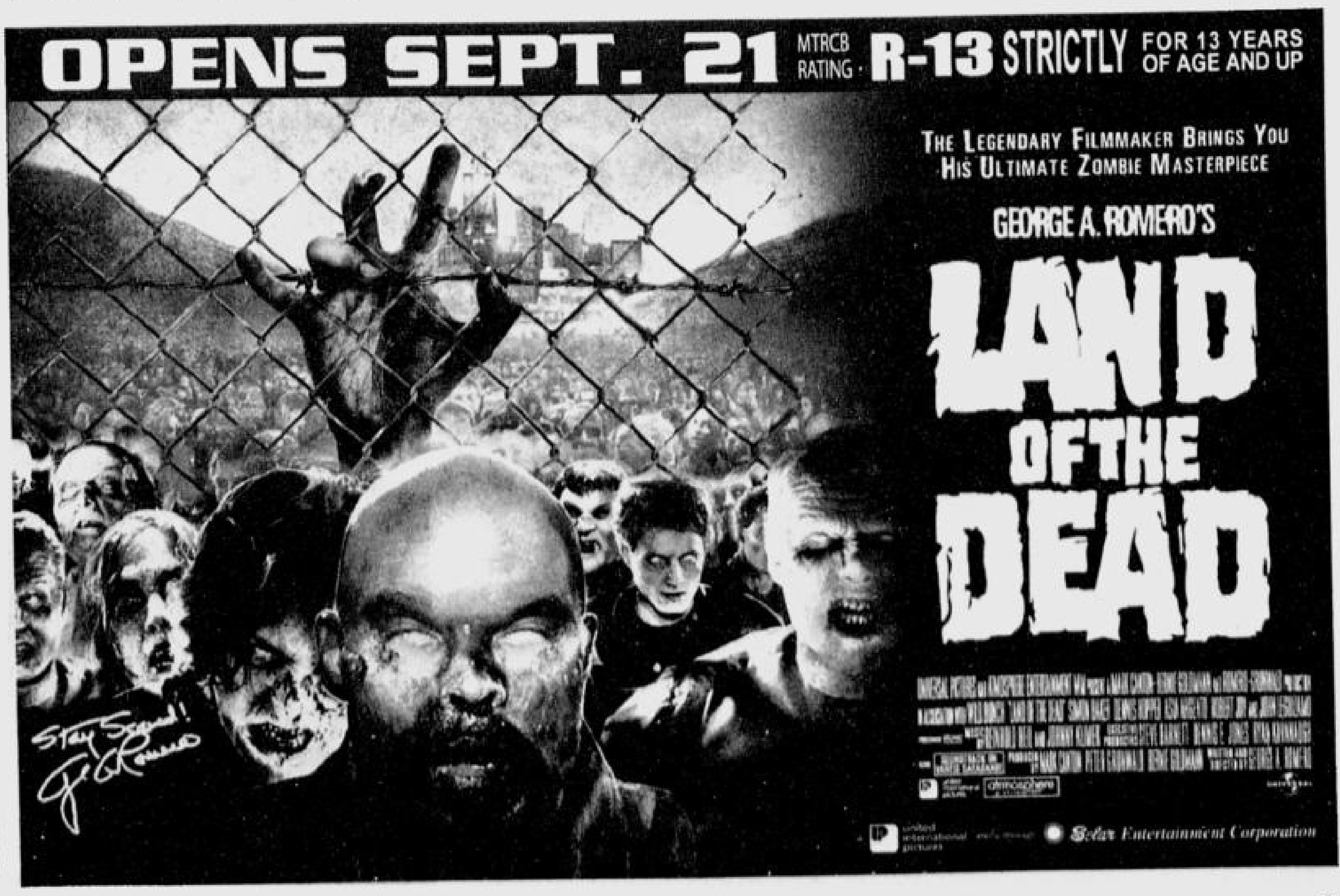
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LITTLE OLYMPICS: Youngsters run in the rain in the 10th Visayas Milo Little Olympics held recently at the Cebu City Sports Center.

Fight for Love to help Espinosa

FIGHT FOR LOVE, A BOXING CARD aimed at raising funds for former world champion Luisito Espinosa, is set in Manila on Oct. 22 with two Philippine championship fights as main events.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has vowed to support the event, baring that the city will exempt the boxing card from amusement taxes since ticket proceeds will be given to Espinosa to support his court battle against a boxing promoter who failed to pay him his purse of $150,000 in a 1997 championship bout in Koronadal, South Cotabato.

Atienza said the use of the air-conditioned San Andres Gym in San Andres, Manila, will also be for free.

Espinosa, son of former boxer Dio Espinosa, grew up in the squatters' area of Tondo before his family moved to the outskirts of the city.

When he was world champion, he took pride in being called a "Tondo Boy."

Top-billing the card are the championship bouts between Philippine lightweight champion Fernando Montilla of Manila and challenger Dexter Delada of Cebu City and the Philippine junior bantamweight champion Eric Barcelona of Valencia, Bukidnon, and No. 1 contender Bernarbe Concepcion of Rizal province.

North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, who is spearheading the project, said all ticket sales will go to Luisito Espinosa, who has lately been stopped by the California Boxing Commission from fighting again following four straight knockout losses.

Espinosa is waging a battle to collect his purse from a 1997 defense of his world featherweight title against Argentina's Carlos Rios in Koronadal amounting to P7 million. A suit which he filed against promoter Rod Nazario is pending before a Manila court.

Supporting Governor Pinol in the project are Espinosa's former manager, Hermie Rivera, journalist Recah Trinidad and Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez.

The Oct. 22 card will be televised live. *Salven Lagumbay*

RP Golf Show seminars

SEMINARS ON VARIOUS GOLF-related topics to be conducted by the Philippine Turfgrass Association and fashion shows will be among the highlights of the 10th Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 7-9 at the SM Megamall.

The Golf Show is an annual project of the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines headed by Lovell Gopez.

Exhibit chair Rommel Baquial said that the seminars are being made available to interested individuals and companies as GDAP's way of helping boost the stock of those handling their respective tasks.

Peregrine shuttlecock bets inch closer to finals

PEREGRINE MANILA BADMINTON Center opened its bid with two victories yesterday to move within a win of qualifying for the grand finals at the start of the West leg eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2 at the Feather N Strings courts in Intramuros.

Peregrine notched 3-0 victories over Family Badminton Center and Olivarez Sports Center without giving up a set to finish the day as the only unbeaten team in the tourney co-presented by Mizuno, Smart: Simply Amazing and INQUIRER Badminton.

Family, however, recovered from that loss to Peregrine to turn back Arty and host Feather N Strings and stay in contention for the second slot being disputed in this two-day qualifier also supported by Citibank On-Line, Unilever and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

The other supporters are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade and Wilson as the official shuttlecock. Media partners are Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3. while Marco Polo Davao is the official hotel for the Mindanao leg.

The meaning of Peping's trip

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

MY PRAYERS ARE FOR PEPING Cojuangco's trip to Geneva, Switzerland, to bear fruit.

It's in Geneva where the Fiba headquarters is located. Peping is there to appeal the Fiba-imposed suspension of the Philippines in all Fiba-sanctioned basketball tournaments anywhere in the world.

One tournament that we already missed is the Fiba-Asia Men's Tournament in Doha, Qatar, venue of the Asian Games next year.

If not for the suspension, we could have easily gotten a slot to that tournament. Malaysia, which is our favorite whipping boy in regional basketball, got one of the two slots staked for the Doha outing during a qualifying tournament held earlier.

I heard that Chot Reyes, coach of the national team that would have easily qualified to the Doha event, is now in Qatar for scouting purposes.

That's what you call fighting spirit, if it's true that Chot Reyes is there.

Even in times of uncertainties, Chot Reyes' trip to Doha means he has not lost hope in the country's move to regain its active status in the world basketball family.

One tournament that's just around the corner, which Chot Reyes fervently hopes to be in, is the SEA Games in Manila in November.

We will not have a basketball competition in this biennial meet if Fiba does not lift the suspension on us. Or, worst, we will have a basketball event but with the Philippines not being able to defend its crown.

If we are not in the SEA Games basketball competition played right in our own backyard, it'd be like watching a "Batman" movie minus Batman.

If that should happen, can we ever live that down?

I pray that Patrick Bauman, the Swiss lawyer who as Fiba secretary general is the most powerful person in world basketball, listens to Peping Cojuangco and eventually lifts the suspension.

Peping's cause is the Philippine cause.

Peping loses his cause, the Philippines loses its cause, too.

Patrick Bauman has heard the BAP side before he got us suspended.

With Peping Cojuangco himself finally pleading the country's cause in person, I hope the effort will prick a nerve in the heart of Patrick Bauman.

By Peping's act alone to personally present the Philippine cause to Patrick Bauman, I raise a glass to that. It is a gesture that bares Peping's soul: That he is for the country's favorite pastime all the way, that he is not just the Olympic president of all sports but, more importantly, of the sport that Filipinos love the most.

God forbid that Patrick Bauman would play deaf to Peping's plea. That'd be a stab at the heart of basketball itself.

But if Patrick Bauman should choose to play villain and reject Peping, let it not be said that Peping did his part, wholeheartedly and without reservations.

Let it be further said that in the event Patrick Bauman should become adamant and refuse to even agree to a compromise—like lifting the suspension temporarily until after the SEA Games—his action would be interpreted to mean that he didn't actually reject Peping but the entire Filipino basketball race.

In the end, win or lose, it'd be a shining moment for Peping because he chose the path least traveled by any self-respecting sports leader. By tempering himself and flying all the way to Europe in thy Filipino basketball's name, Peping has become a winner already. Suddenly, ego has stepped aside to give way to the common cause of the people.

I have yet to see Peping do such a thing. The Cojuangcos are never known to even bend a little.

But this time, Peping did.

If you can't appreciate that, then we're a lost basketball republic forever.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Bon voyage to my buddies Batchoy and Pamela Henares, who will fly to Adelaide, Australia, tomorrow in the company of Ramon Uy. Batchoy and Pamela are now known nationally as the owners of the organic farming technology in Bacolod. Ramon is the noted inventor of leaf/twig shredders needed in vermi-composting and in implementing waste management programs of the government. They will be in Australia for 11 days to attend an international seminar on organic farming. Good luck!

SPORTSWATCH

X-games on ABC Sports

TSUNAMI victims will be the chief beneficiaries of the Thailand X-Games Cup 2005 to be aired by ABC Sports beginning on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. World-class in-line skaters Fabiola da Silva and the Yasutoko brothers, BMX riders Matt Hoffman and Kevin Robinson, and skateboarders Gen Ogawa and Sandro Dias compete in their respective disciplines in the four-day event. The entire Asian X-games contingent, have donated a portion of their appearance fees for tsunami relief operations. ABC-5, in partnership with ESPN, will also broadcast the LPGA Tour's John Q Hammons Hotel Classic starting on Tuesday during its golf nights at 11.

Naranjo-Delada fight on TV

FISTORAMA features this afternoon an exciting bout between Ayon Naranjo and Alex Delada. The bout was held at the Lapu Lapu Sports Center in Cebu in a fight card promoted by Rex "Wakee" Salud. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The event, supported by Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon, is aired at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m., featuring the semifinal match between De La Salle University and College of St. Benilde II in the Cantada Sports Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.

Ringside TV boxing today

YOUTHFUL Roberto Lerio and Janry Niño Cañete take on separate opponents today in Ginebra San Miguel's Ringside TV Boxing, from 3-4 p.m. on ABC-5. Lerio, youngest brother of Olympians Arlan and Danilo, collides with Richard Agagad at 115 lbs, while Cañete battles Albert Alcoy at 105 lbs. Both fights were scheduled for six rounds. Presented by Galorde Enterprises Inc. and ABC-5, with support from PCSO, today's fights will also be seen in the United States, Canada and Japan through Mabuhay Channel. Meanwhile, Benjie Sorolla vies for the vacant WBO Asia-Pacific miniflyweight crown against Thai Saengpetch Sor Sakulphan on Sept. 24 at San Andres Sports Complex in Malate.

JVC Interscholastic badminton

THE COUNTRY'S top colleges and universities are competing in the JVC Interscholastic Championships slated Nov. 17-23 at the PowerSmash Badminton Center and Glorietta Activity Center. The team event stakes P50,000 in the college division and P20,000 in high school play. Entry forms are available on www.jvcbadminton.com, and at Unit 1411 Cityland Herrera Tower, Herrera cor. Valero sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Deadline for submission of entries is on Nov. 10. For details, call 0917-8050702, 0917-8050601 and 0917-5288970.

MILO MARATHON: Santiago City, through Mayor Amelita S. Navarro (middle), is hosting the final elimination race of the 29th National Milo Marathon today. With her is race organizer Tess Bernardino and Johnny Uy, sports administrator of Santiago City. Fro details, call Bernardino at 0919-8325417.

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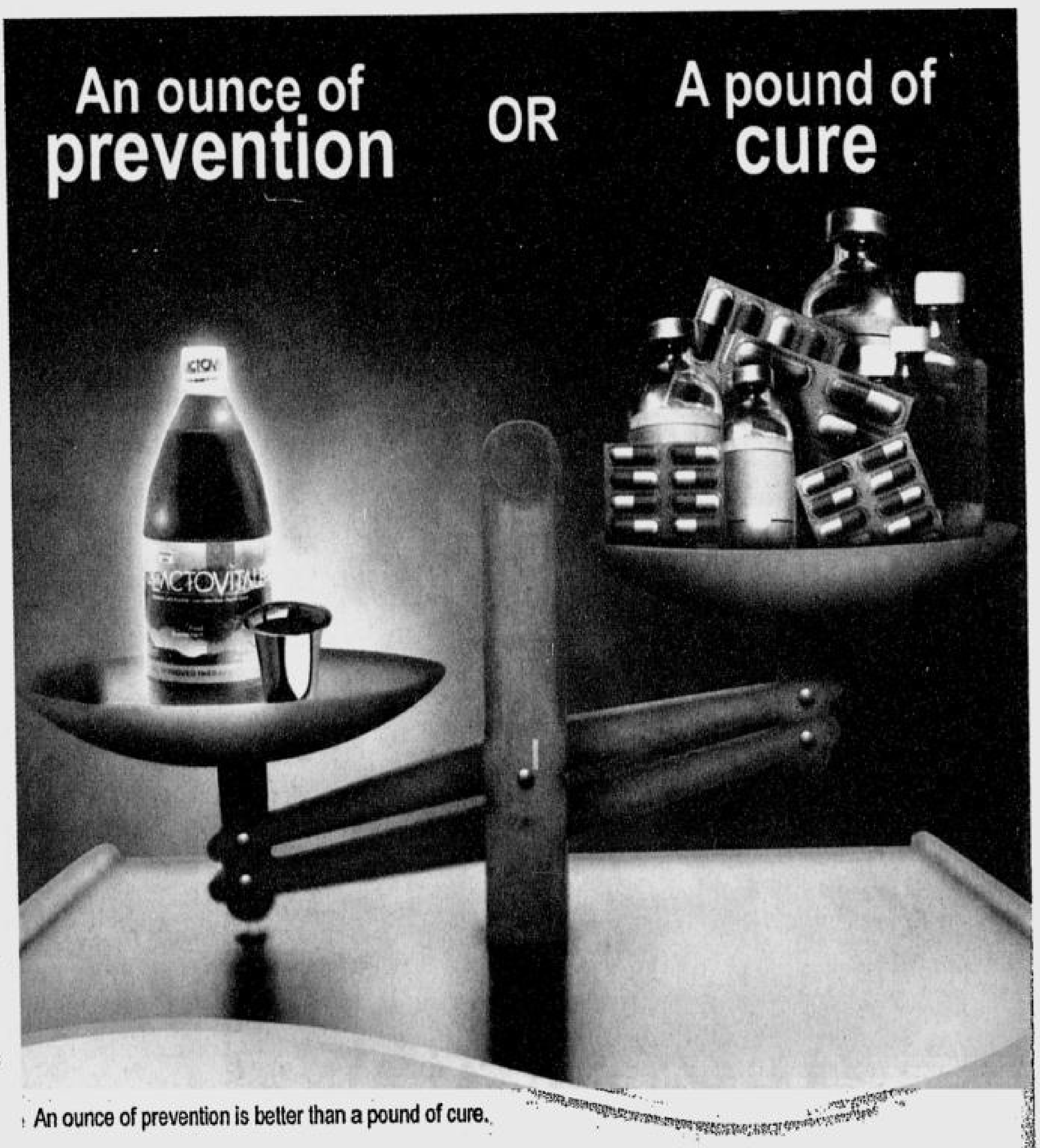

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Pasa opens door to 'retirees'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASsociation (Pasa) will leave the door open for swimmers who went into "premature retirement" even as it is eyeing the presence of more Filipino-American tankers to beef up the squad that will represent the country in the Southeast Asian Games this year.

This was announced by swimming president Mark Joseph, who bared that there are a handful of Filipinos overseas who have sent their records hoping to gain slots in the national team.

Joseph added tankers Lisa Danila and Mark Kalaw might join the qualifying which will be held on Oct. 11-15 at the Trace Computer College in Laguna, site of the SEAG aquatics event.

Joseph said the swimming association is looking to bring Danila and Kalaw back to the fold because they still are top contenders for their event. Danila and Kalaw quit the team at the height of the leadership crisis that hit the Pasa.

In the Vietnam SEAG, Danila brought home two silver medals, losing twice to a Thai swimmer who has since retired. Kalaw, on the other hand, was part of the 2003 champion relay team.

"That's why I am hoping that these two swimmers reconsider their decision to retire prematurely," Joseph said.

The number of foreign-based swimmers hoping to make the team has kept the Pasa from announcing the final list of contenders.

He also bared that Olympians Jaclyn Pangilinan, Miguel Molina and Miguel Mendoza are shoo-ins to the national roster, along with Vietnam SEAG veteran JB Walsh.

Joseph said the country is hoping to at least duplicate the three gold medals the country won in Vietnam in 2003.

The Philippines won 10 gold medals when the SEAG was last held here in 1991, with the legendary Eric Buhain snaring six of them.

Rosales falls 9 strokes behind

TAIWAN — GERALD Rosales floundered with a 74 Saturday and fell nine shots out of the lead in the Taiwan Open at the Chung Kung Golf Club.

Rosales started the day just four shots out of the lead but could not get any rhythm going on the way to a three-day total of 212.

Australian Scott Strange shot a course-record tying eight-under-par 64 to seize a one-stroke lead over Thai newcomer Chapchai Nirat in the $300,000 event.

Scott shot eight birdies for a three-day total of 13-under-par 203 to give himself a shot at a second Asian Tour title this season.

The 22-year-old Chapchai moved into contention with a 66, thanks to seven birdies against a lone bogey.

Terry Pilkadaris and Adam Blyth will enter Sunday's final round two strokes off the pace after firing scores of 70 and 68, respectively.

Overnight leader Chang Tse-peng of Chinese Taipei, compatriot Lu Wei-lan and Thai Thaworn Wiratchant are tied on 206. *AFP*

Appleby grabs lead in '84' golf

FARMINGTON, PENNsylvania—Stuart Appleby unleashed big drive after big drive during his sixth consecutive round in the 60s at the 84 Lumber Classic to open a one-shot lead on Friday.

Appleby's 6-under 66 on the long but not especially trouble-filled 7,416-yard Mystic Rock course put him at 11-under 133 after two rounds. Cameron Beckman's 65 and Chris Smith's 66 put them at 134, two shots better than Craig Barlow, Joey Sindelar and Carl Pettersson.

With the wind behind them on most tees and wide fairways to grab every long drive that wasn't badly hit, Appleby and Smith applied John Daly's theory of golf: Grip it and rip it.

"There's tons of room out there," Smith said. "You've got to hit it hard out there. I went out and I was swinging—there are some holes on the course that I tried to hit my driver harder than I hit it all year."

Smith, 161st on the money list and playing for a high finish that would allow him to keep his US PGA Tour card for next year, decided he had nothing to lose by using his driver as if he was in a long hitter's contest.

His 367-yard drive on the 598-yard No. 5 allowed him to hit a 1-iron on his second shot, and he hit to 2 feet before dropping an eagle putt.

He birdied the 545-yard 8th after an even longer drive, taking advantage of a downslope beyond a bunker to drive it 387 yards, leaving him a 136-yard sand wedge on his approach. *AP*

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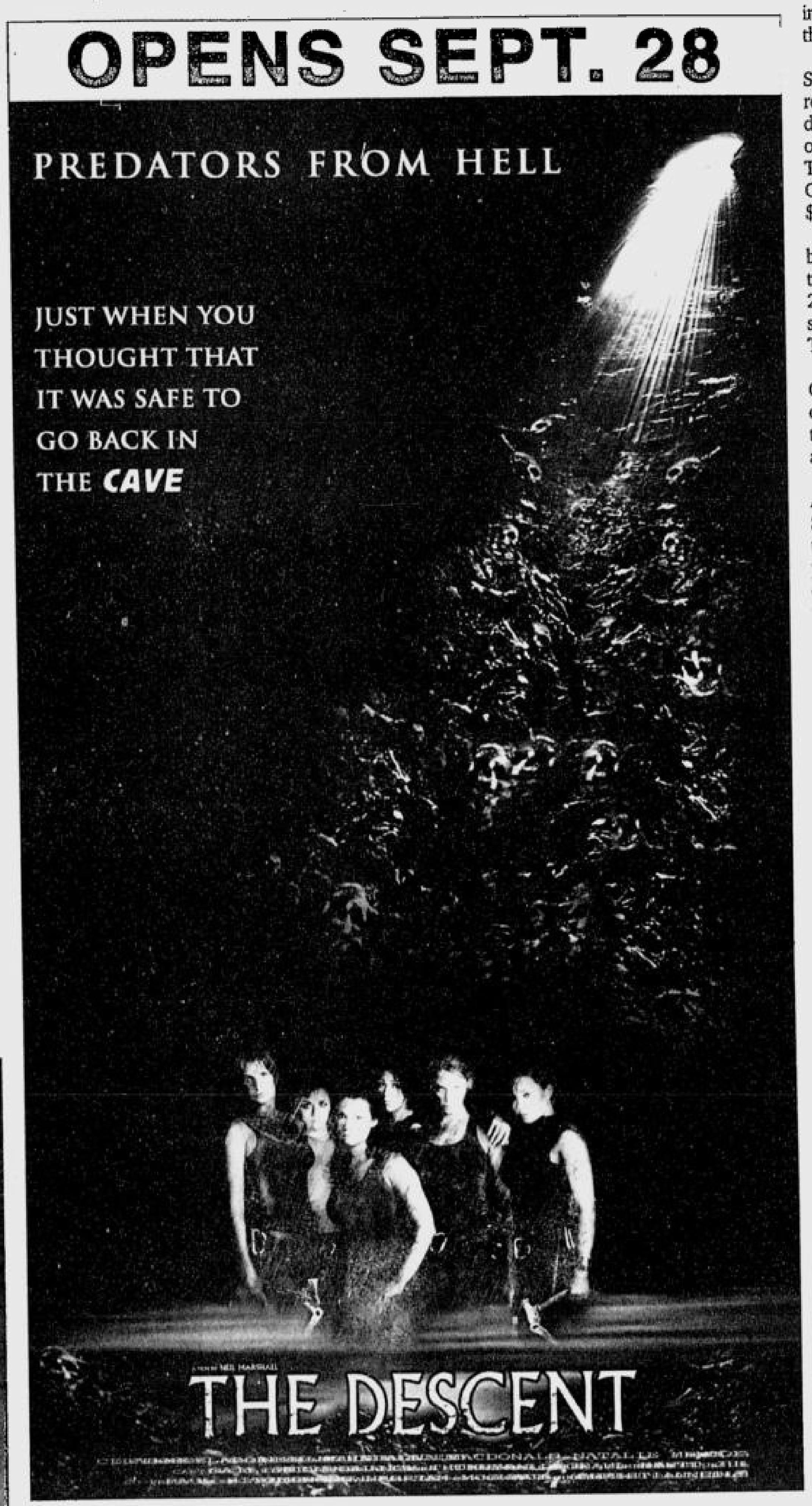
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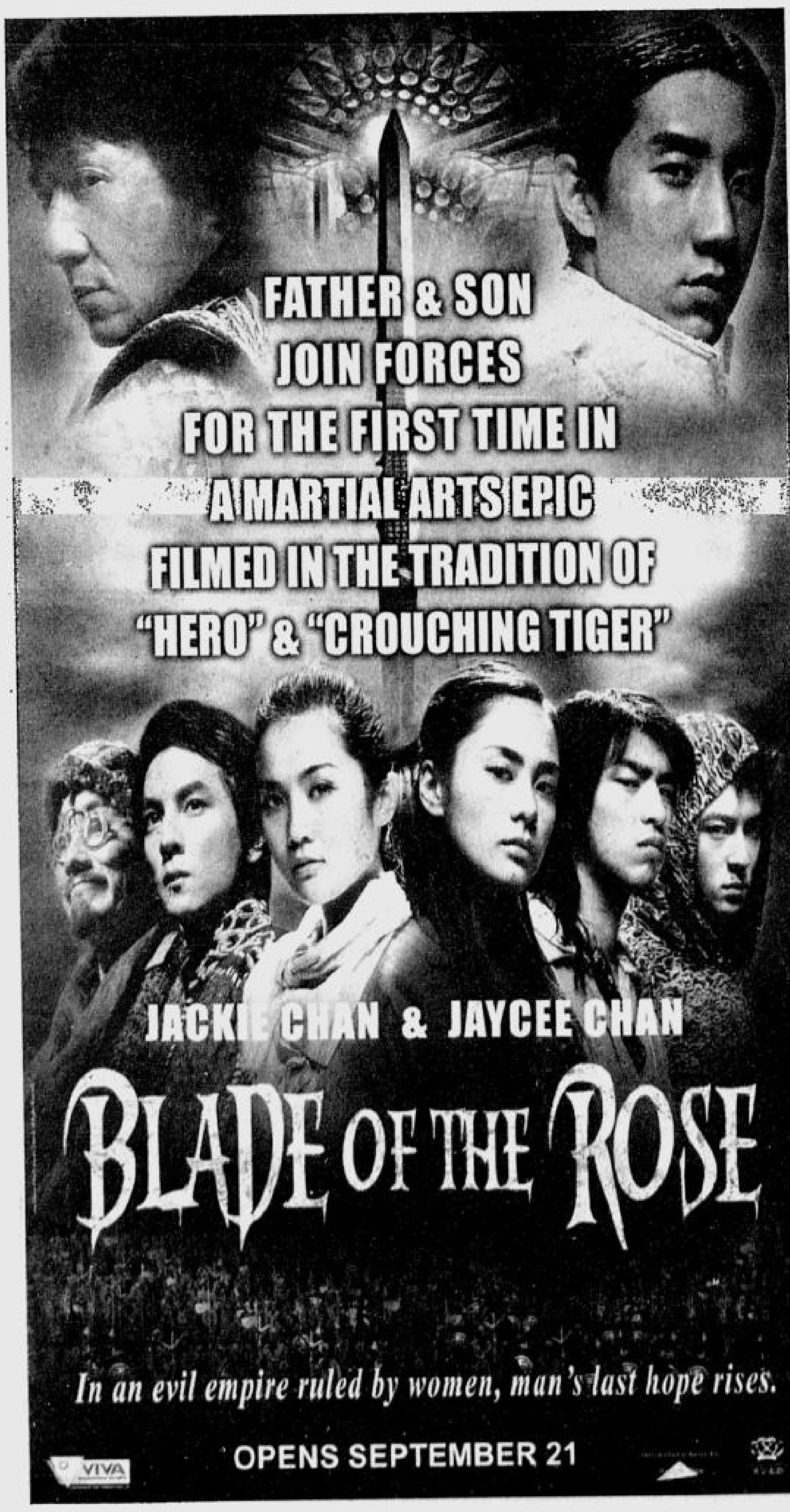
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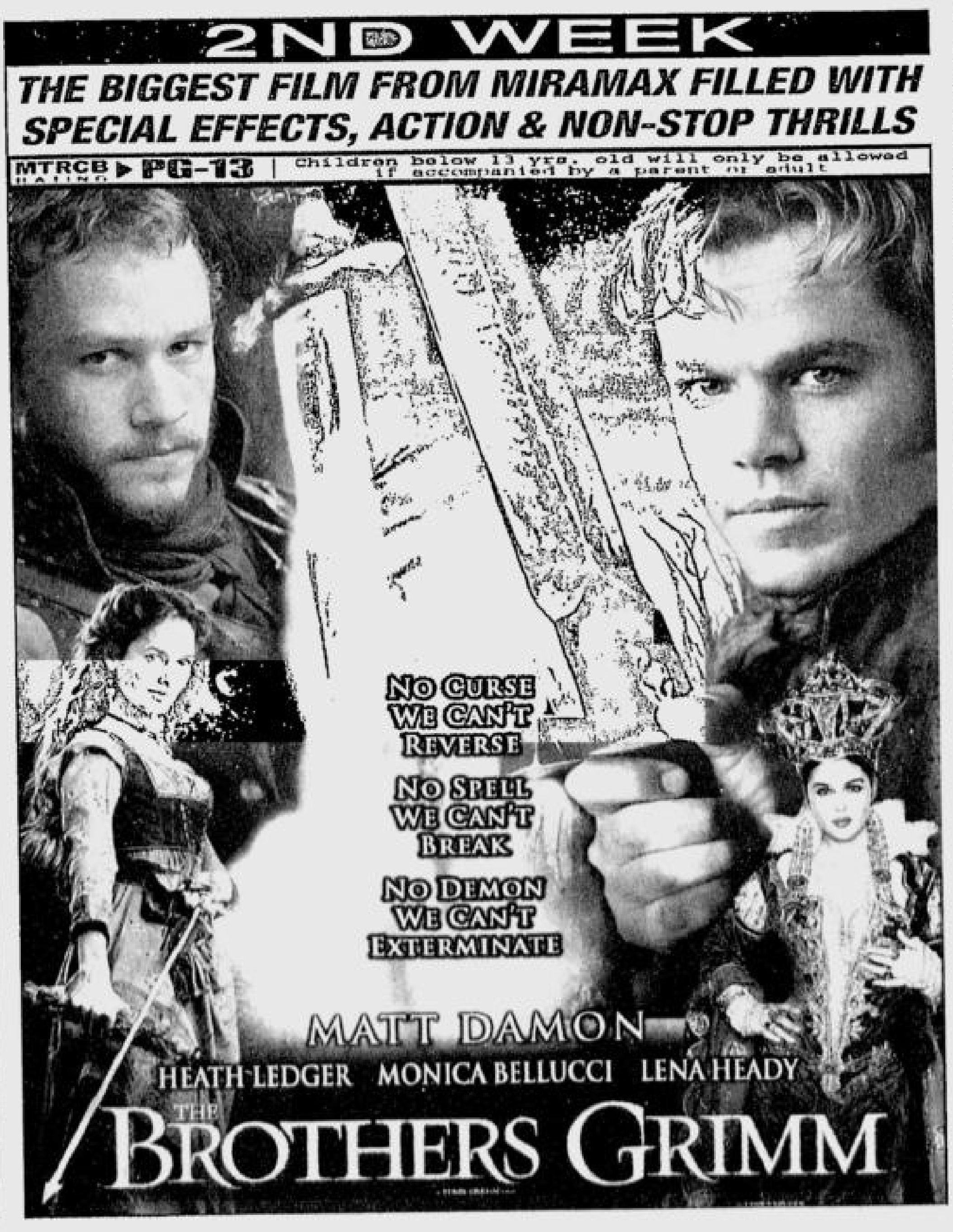
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4 THE CROW 4	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 LOVESTRUCK	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 THE CAVE	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
7 RED EYE	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 THE LONG WEEKEND	1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
9 A SOUND OF THUNDER	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
10 MUST LOVE DOGS	1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

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1 LOVESTRUCK	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 THE CAVE	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 CINDERELLA MAN	12:00 2:50 5:00 7:30 9:50
4 THE CROW 4	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 RED EYE	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER	12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
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3 A SOUND OF THUNDER	1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
4 CINDERELLA MAN	12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
5 SKY HIGH	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 RED EYE	12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00
7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
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	2	A SOUND OF THUNDER	
	3	THE CAVE	
	4	LOVESTRUCK	
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	RED EYE	
	2	A SOUND OF THUNDER	
	3 THX	CINDERELLA MAN	2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	LORDS OF DOGTOWN	
	5	SKY HIGH	
	6	THE BROTHERS GRIMM	
	7	LOVESTRUCK	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	CINDERELLA MAN	12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20
	2	LOVESTRUCK	2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	THE BROTHERS GRIMM	1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	CINDERELLA MAN	12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	LONG WEEKEND	2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	A SOUND OF THUNDER	2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	RED EYE	1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	CINDERELLA MAN	
	2	THE BROTHERS GRIMM	
	3	LOVESTRUCK	
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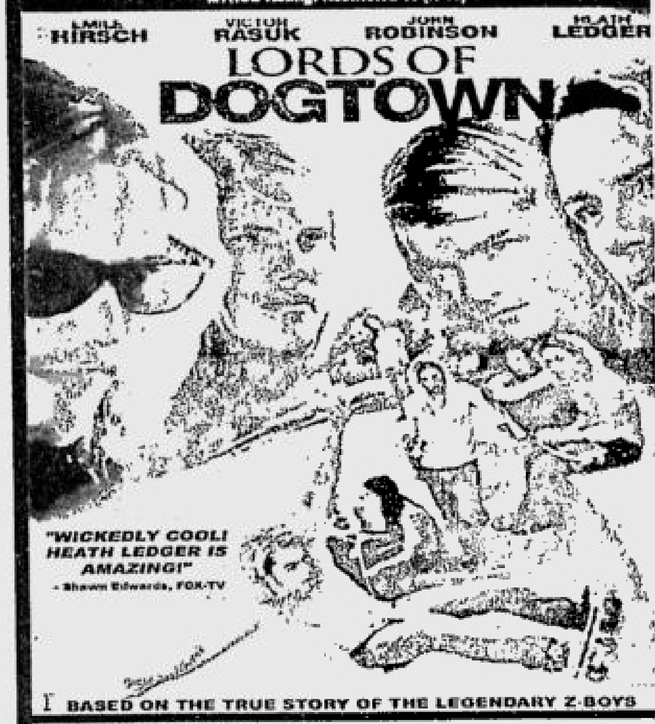
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New Era cops last semis slot

NEW ERA LEANED ON THE heroics of main men Jeff de Guzman and William Ibay to defeat Centro Escolar, 73-69, yesterday and secure the fourth and last place in the semifinals of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities at the NEU Gym.

De Guzman unloaded 19 points and issued six assists even as Ibay contributed 16 points and eight rebounds to carry the fight for the Hunters, who joined University of Manila, St. Clare and STI in the next round.

New Era, coached by former PBA mentor Adonis Tierra, also bundled out CEU which had a stormy season after finishing runner-up to UM last year.

"There's still plenty of work to be done but we are slowly getting into the place we wanted to be," said Tierra, whose wards will have an unenviable task of taking on the Hawks in the next round which starts on Sept.20.

Chairman's Cup set Sept. 29

A BRAND NEW NIKE GOLF SET and P100,000 are some of the main holes-in-one prizes at stake at the Chairman's Cup scheduled Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 at the posh Forest Hills Golf Club in Antipolo City.

The beautiful but tough Jack Nicklaus-designed par-71 golf course of Forest Hills, newly crowned champion of the Federation of Golf Clubs League, will play host to the 420 players vying for individual honors.

According to the club's Sports and Games chair, Gene Lim, the event honoring club chairman lawyer Ferdinand Santos is on its fifth edition.

"On behalf of the board of directors, management and staff, we extend our gratitude to all the sponsors for their continuous support of the major tournaments of Forest Hills," Lim said.

Presenting the three-way tournament are Galforce Inc. and Sun Cellular. Major sponsor is New Life, a cosmetic surgery clinic owned by Dr. Romy Vergara.

Sr Care golf up

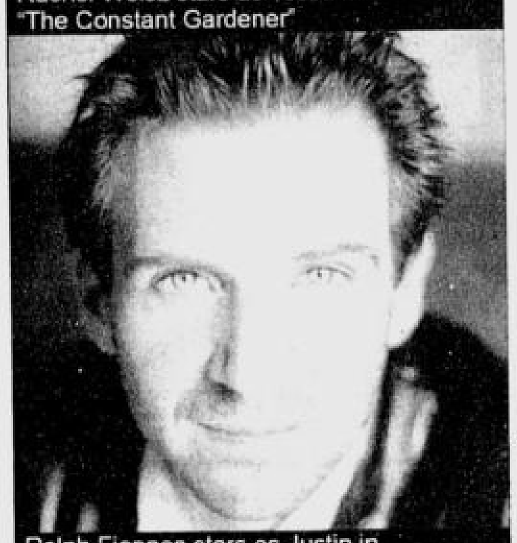
FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE FEDeration Golf League, the Federation of Golf Clubs Phils. Inc. is set to stage the fourth Senior Care Fellowship on Oct. 27 at the North course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Open to active members of the Senior Care Program of the FGCPI, the 18-hole tourney will feature team and individual competitions using the Modified Stableford system of scoring. Shotgun tee-off is at 8 a.m.

Only the first 120 registrants will be accommodated. Call Pie Ledesma at 8403951.

LE CARRE CREATES THINKING MAN'S JAMES BOND

Rachel Weisz stars as Tessa in "The Constant Gardener"



Ralph Fiennes stars as Justin in "The Constant Gardener"

"The Constant Gardener" opens with Tessa being murdered (*Constantine's Rachel Weisz*) in Nairobi . Her diplomat husband Justin (*Maid in Manhattan's Ralph Fiennes*) rouses himself from his peaceful existence and starts unraveling the threads that led to her death. His journey to find the killers of his pregnant wife will take him around the world - Italy, Spain, Germany Canada, Sudan, and in the end back to Kenya where the scene of Tessa's death took place.

"The Constant Gardener" is an action thriller about a man on the run, chased by his "own" side (Intelligence and the Foreign Office) as well as the bad guys who killed his wife.

"The Constant Gardener" offers a real world of espionage, economic corruption, bureaucracy, and the abuse of power by the world's rich and powerful.

RESEARCHED LIKE A SPY

Le Carre, once a real-life British spy, said he used techniques he learned in British intelligence to research the story on "The Constant Gardener".

"I do what spies do and I do what journalists do. I find disaffected middle management people who will talk off the record on condition of anonymity."

"I never go to the top if I can help it, because I know I'm going to get a lot of nonsense."

In recent years le Carre has shed his image as a private man to rail against the war in Iraq. In 2003 he wrote an opinion piece in a British newspaper called "The United States of America has gone mad".

Not everyone was impressed with his attack on Washington policy, but le Carre is not about to be silenced.

"We have virtual news, we have crap news, we have substitute news all the time. So a movie like this actually steps in, and although it is fiction, (it) is an incontrovertible statement of human behavior at its most dismal."

"It is our duty as patriots ... to get back in there and fill the media gap which has been created by spin, lies, deception and contempt for the public."

LE CARRE CREATES THE THINKING MAN'S JAMES BOND

The spies in movies based on the works of British spy novelist John Le Carre act as wonderful counterpoints to the movies based on the spy that inhabits the novels of James Bond creator Ian Fleming, the other British spy novelist . Where James Bond is a man of action surrounded by bombast, the spies of Le Carre are quiet and deliberate, often suffering angst about what they are doing.

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③ RED EYE MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
④ THE BROTHERS GRIMM MTRCB PG-13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
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RED EYE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
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3 SOUND OF THUNDER 10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20 09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:15END
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SM MEGAMALL: 1 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 2 CINDERELLA MAN, 3 BROTHER GRIMM, 4 RED EYE, 5 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER, 6 RED EYE, 7 THE CAVE, 8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO, 9 LONG WEEEKEND, 10 LOVESTRUCK, 11 EVIL EYE, 12 DUKES OF HAZZARD
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SM NORTH EDSA: 1 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 2 BROTHERS GRIMM, 3 LOVESTRUCK, 4 STARSTRUCK SEARCH, 5 LONG WEEKEND, 6 RED EYE, 7 CINDERELLA MAN, 8 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
SM CITY STA MESA: 1 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 2 BROTHERS GRIMM, 3 LOVESTRUCK, 4 THE CAVE, 5 RESERVED, 6 RED EYE, 7 LONG WEEKEND, 8 SKY HIGH, 9 LAZARUS CHILD, 10 LONGEST YARD
SM CITY SOUTHMALL: 1 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 2 LOVESTRUCK, 3 BROTHERS GRIMM, 4 CINDERELLA MAN, 5 LONG WEEKEND, 6 SKY HIGH, 7 THE CAVE, 8 RED EYE, 9 LONGEST YARD, 10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
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SM SAN LAZARO: 1 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 2 BROTHERS GRIMM, 3 RED EYE, 4 CINDERELLA MAN, 5 THE CAVE, 6 LOVESTRUCK
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA: 1 CINDERELLA MAN, 2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE, 3 LONGEST YARD, 4 RED EYE, 5 LOVESTRUCK, 6 LOVESTRUCK
SM CITY BACOOR: 1 SKY HIGH, 2 LOVESTRUCK, 3 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 4 THE CAVE, 5 BROTHERS GRIMM, 6 LOVESTRUCK, 7 RED EYE, 8 CINDERELLA MAN
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SM CITY BATANGAS: 1 SKELETON KEY, 2 LOVE STRUCK, 3 SKY HIGH, 4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
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SM CITY CEBU: 1 THE CAVE, 2 BROTHERS GRIMM, 3 A SOUND OF THUNDER, 4 SKY HIGH, 5 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS, 6 RED EYE, 7 LOVESTRUCK, 8 LONGEST YARD
SM CITY ILOILO: 1 LONGEST YARD, 2 RESERVED, 3 SKELETON KEY, 4 LOVESTRUCK, 5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE, 6 DUKES OF HAZZARD, 7 RESERVED, 8 EVIL EYES
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Successful Dream rallies to prevail

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

SUCCESSFUL DREAM NAILED DOWN TWO BIG WINS previously using her patented late rush down the stretch.

Yesterday, the massive mare used her forte to the hilt to turn back her three rivals in the MJCI Invitational at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

Trailing the field three-fourths of the way, Successful Dream suddenly came into the picture nearing the final turn and charged down the wire with impunity to score a two-length victory in the 1,525-meter event under the guidance of Val Dilema.

"*Matulis talaga ito sa rematehan* (She's really sharp when coming off the pace)," said Dilema of the 5-year-old bay daughter of Khozaam out of Puppet Master.

It was actually the very same path Successful Dream took in ruling the Consular Cup and ER. Sevilla Cup, her previous wins of note prior to yesterday's triumph worth P145,000 for the Franchino Farms.

Flying Jordan arrived second followed by Blazing Maldini, the only import in the field who could have tallied a better finish had she not veered wide at the home turn. Top pick Southern Charm ended up fourth and last.

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Race 9-1. Tout Est Grace 2. Bull Rider 3. Real Queen
Race 10-1. Close Account 2. Sgt. Marangal 3. Better Beth
Race 11-1. Master Jinay 2. Mrs. Big 3. Puede Ba 4. Mighty More
Race 12-1. Infinite Passion 2. Red Anya 3. Loaded 4. Sound of the Wind
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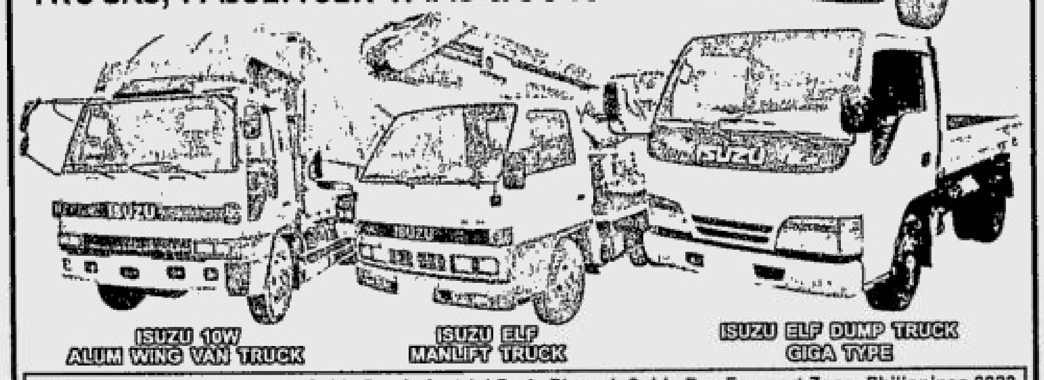

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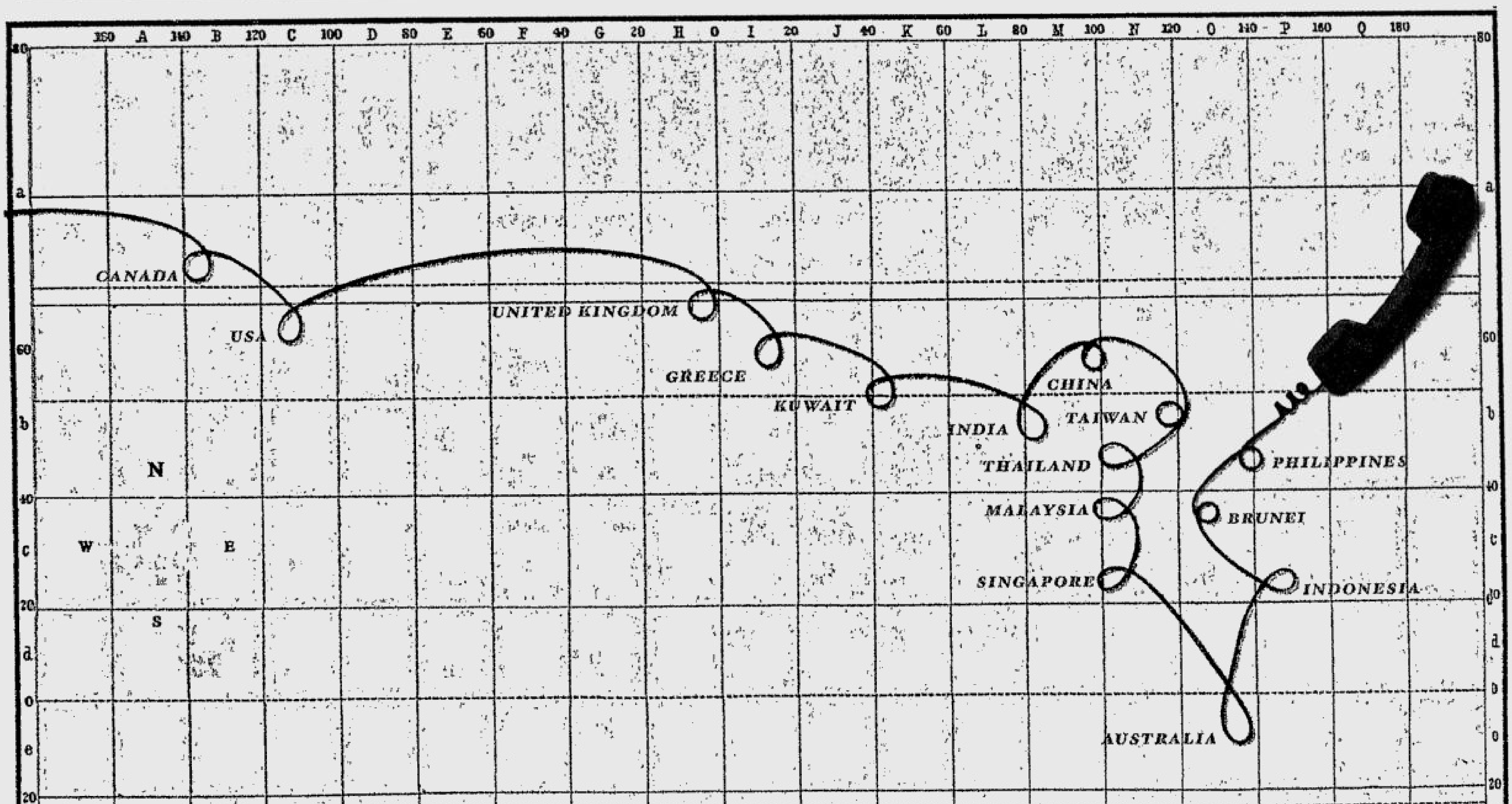

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Ruben V. Nepales

TORONTO—We're still reeling from our 30th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) experience.

As soon as we arrived here from LA last Sept. 8, we jumped right into the film fest frenzy. Although tired from the journey, we simply took a deep breath and headed to a late night screening of "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang." This funny film noir thriller starring Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer (as a gay private eye) is clever but almost feels like a Hollywood in-joke. In one scene, Val's character, Gay Perry (get it?), proves the usefulness of having a bulging, er, gun, in your pants.

Before the film unspooled, producer Joel Silver, in a purple suit and pink tie (just visualize that), introduced his cast. Val pretended that he thought he was called onstage to receive an award. This was the first of several films that we saw for which the audience clapped and cheered lustily.

Coming out of the theater, we noted people lined up for a midnight screening. There is a genuine love for film in this town. It's one of the reasons that TIFF is one of the biggest and most successful festivals in the world.

Passing by Robert and his brand-new wife, producer Susan Levin, as he talked to TV reporters at the entrance to Pur for the post-screening party, we felt happy for the reportedly completely rehabilitated actor. Great things are happening to the drug-free Robert who is probably very grateful to

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P2M EXTRA CHALLENGE:
Extra Challenge's Second Anniversary Special

The program that owes its birthright from GMA News and Public Affairs' magazine show "Extra, Extra" which successfully ran for four years, Extra Challenge started out as a segment, which evolved into a 30-minute program.

It was first to introduce the reality-based program concept to Filipino television. Fearlessly fusing the trend of reality shows abroad in a single program - a series of episodic "challenges", which airs from Monday to Friday and with concepts/themes changing nearly every week. It was the best of the world's reality shows rolled into one.

Soon after it was given the timeslot after "24 Oras" in September 2003, it changed the landscape of the primetime block. Competition was never the same. Original and unique, it consistently won the ratings game, toppled more than 10 shows pitted by the rival network and set new heights in the numbers game.

And to celebrate two successful, to a point phenomenal, years of Pinoy reality TV, Extra Challenge brings together a dozen brave and daring young men and women to face up the most grueling series of challenges the program has ever put up.

Enter Extra Challenge's second anniversary special – the P2M EXTRA CHALLENGE! Racing across the country, the tandems of Dennis Trillo and Bianca King, Joanne Quintas and Jackie Forster, Maui Taylor and Joyce Jimenez, Kara David and Jiggy Manicad, Raph and Renz Fernandez, and IC Mendoza and Inday Garutay must get the better of each other to earn for themselves 2 MILLION PESOS!

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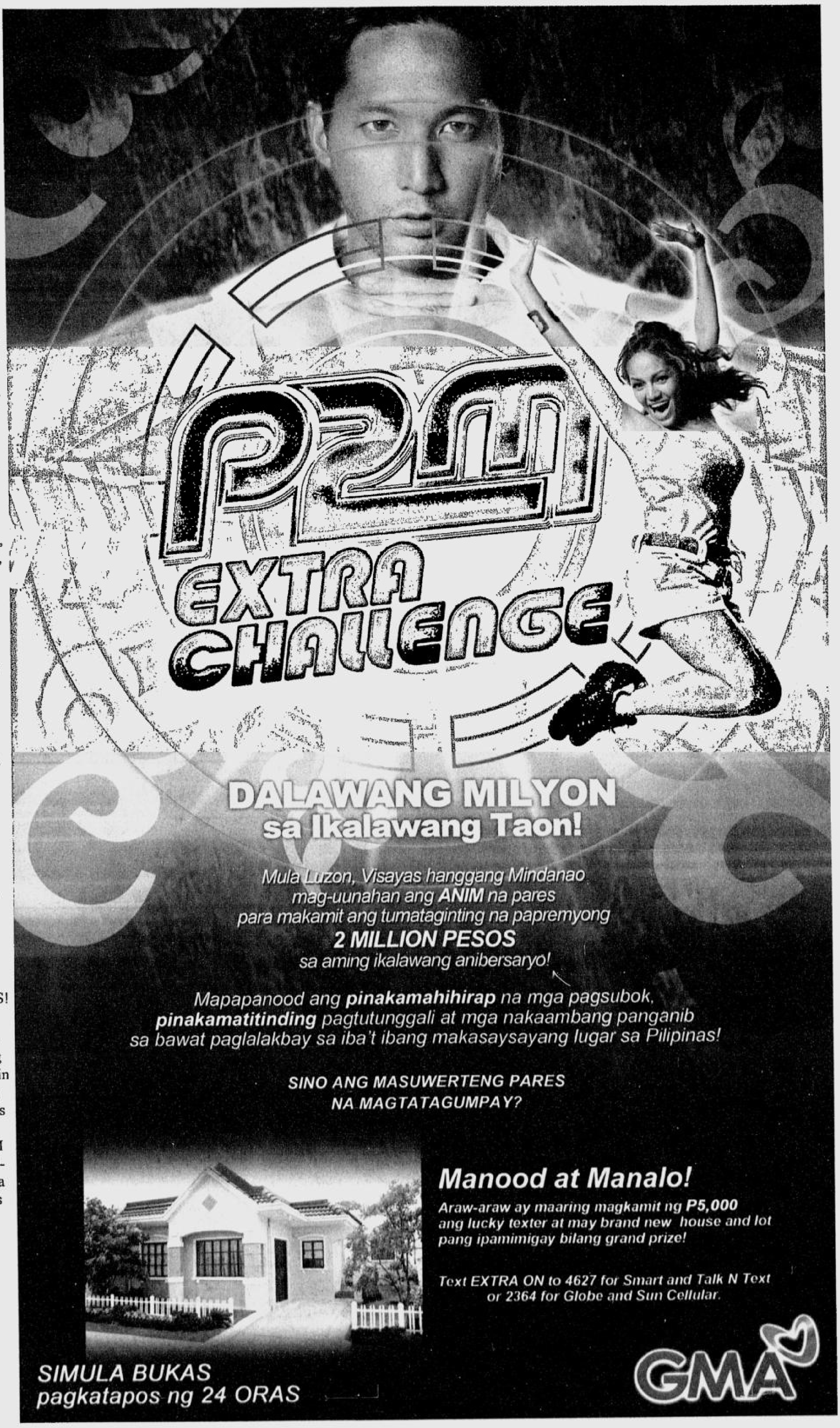
Catch all the action, drama and comedy in EC's three-week anniversary special, the P2M Extra Challenge, starting this Monday, September 19, right after 24 Oras on GMA-7.



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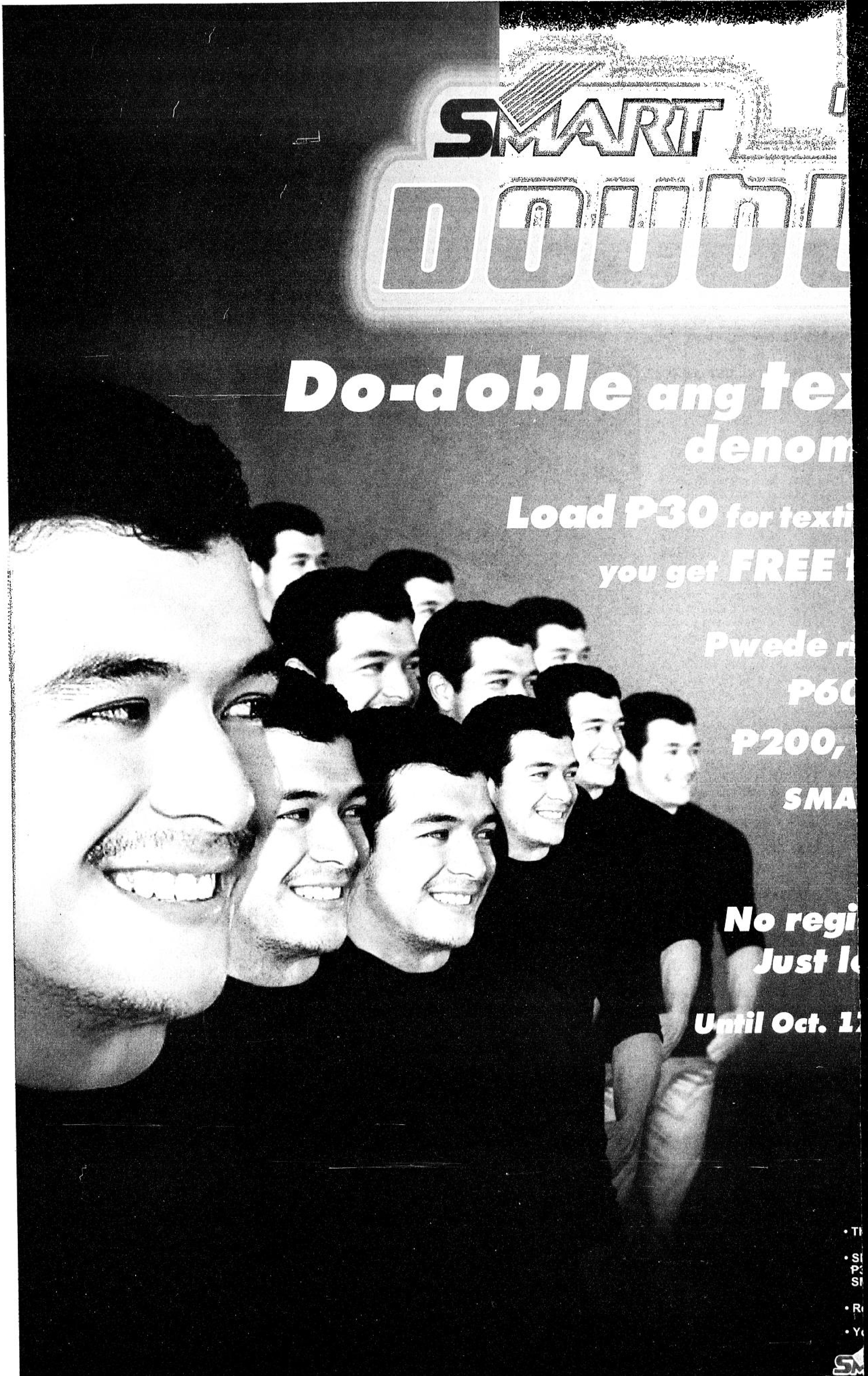

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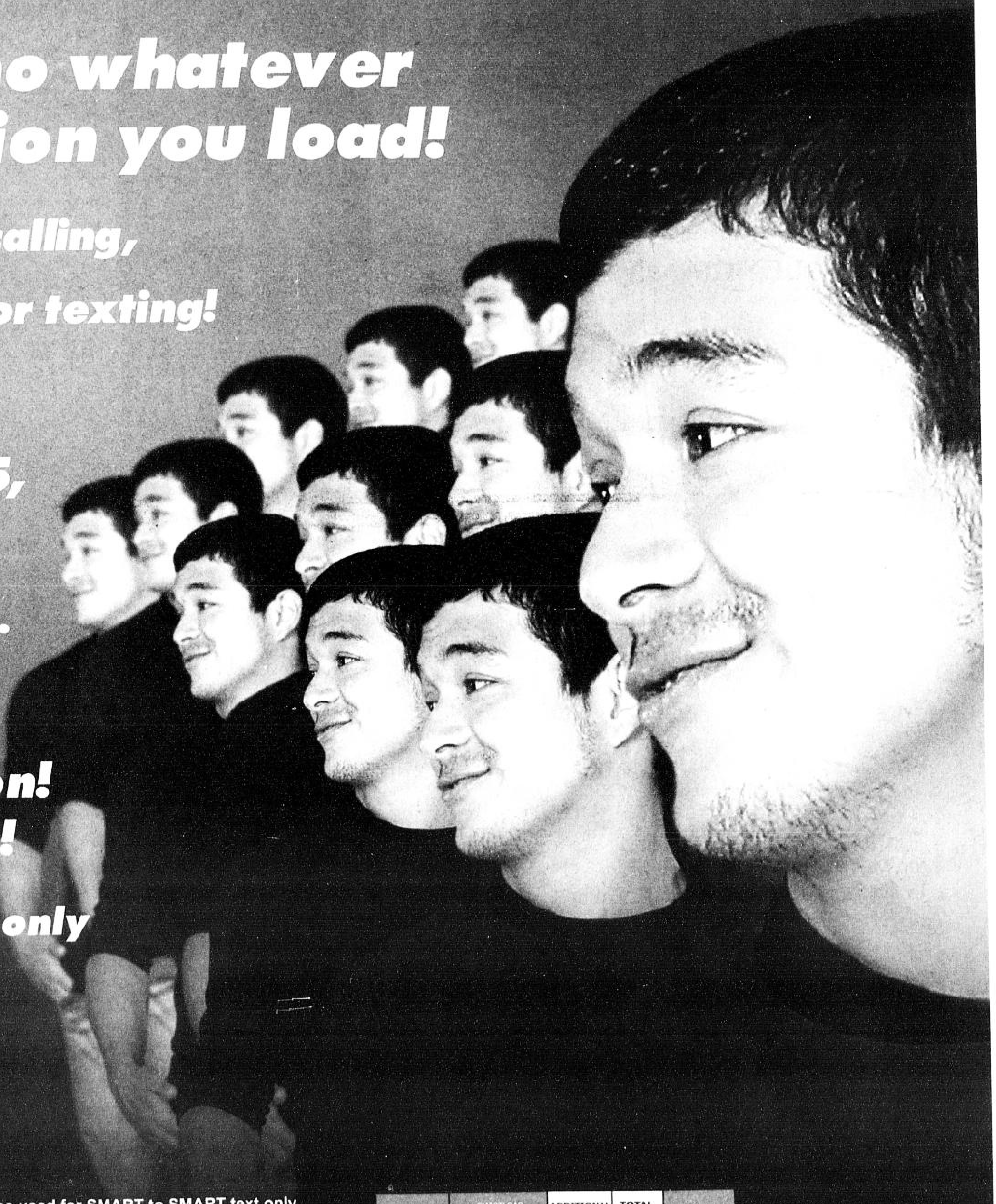

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Partying with Liza M in Toronto

From page A2-1

his bud Mel Gibson. The actor-director convinced Joel to hire Robert. "The kid is clean," Mel reportedly assured Joel.

At Pur, my wife Janet and I had our first taste of so many variations of salmon cocktail finger foods that, by the end of our stay, *pancit* and *sinigang sa miso* at my cousins' house were welcome treats.

ANN Marie Baldonado

Despite such a long day, the following morning I made it to the first of several press cons that the studios held for our group. We had the stars of "Shopgirl"—Jason Schwartzman (who has Francis Ford Coppola as *tito* and Nicolas Cage as *pinsan*—he does quirky characters like no other young actor can), Claire Danes and Steve Martin, whose novella this movie was adapted from. Steve is not a laugh-a-minute interviewee like Robin Wiliams is; he tends to be quiet, low key and introspective.

Next interviews were with the stars of the drama-thriller "Flight Plan"—Erika Christensen, Peter Sarsgaard and the wonderful Jodie Foster. Erika confirmed that she did indeed grow up in the boonies part of LA where we live. She told me that her parents still reside in the area.

Peter, whom I call my favorite Catholic activist, expressed sorrow over the fact that many people who worked with him in "The Skeleton Key" in New Orleans were now homeless in the aftermath of the Katrina Hurricane.

Leave it to Jodie Foster, her features softening as she goes into her 40s, to give the best interview throughout our stay in Toronto. She is strong and confident but her girlish laughter gives her a touch of vulnerability. This mother of two sounds even more fascinating now as she talks about parenthood.

Laughing life force

Then it was time to party with Liza Minnelli. Janet rearranged her hair to make it even more similar to Liza's. Liza was a shimmering vision, our second purple sighting at the festival. We toasted the legendary performer after the screening of her restored and re-mastered acclaimed TV special, "Liza with a Z," which will be aired next year released as a DVD. It has been 33 years since the Bob Fosse-directed landmark show debuted.

After posing for pictures, Liza took off her shoes to reveal stockinged feet. She's larger-than-life in person, a smiling, laughing life force. We saw stage and movie actor Alan Cumming ("X2," the "Spy Kids" movies), in shorts, by the bar—the first of our many sightings of him at parties. We give him the film fest's Party Boy award. The man was everywhere.

Meeting Liza was fabulous, but sitting beside a Filipina-looking guest who turned out to be the producer of my favorite radio interview show, "Fresh Air," also thrilled me. It was a double thrill to find out that yes, indeed, a Filipina, Ann Marie Baldonado, produces the radio show that oftentimes makes me stay in my car to finish listening—even after I've reached my destination.

"Fresh Air" is hosted by Terry Gross, who, in my book, is the master of the art of interviewing. She has interviewed everybody, from rock stars to politicians to literary greats. You can listen to "Fresh Air" online at www.npr.org.

Burton scores anew

A VISION in purple JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

Sobered down by coffee, we walked a few blocks to the screening of Tim Burton's "Corpse Bride." Fresh from the blockbuster "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," Tim scores again with his first-ever stop-motion animation feature. "Corpse Bride" is a visual feast as it narrates a story based on a 19th-century Russian fable. Two persons close to Tim provide engaging voice acting—Johnny Depp, Burton's muse in several films; and Helena Bonham Carter, his partner in real life.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, our early morning subject the following day, should, like Joaquin Phoenix (for "Walk the Line"), prepare his tuxedo already. Philip will definitely be in the running for Best Actor come awards season for his staggeringly brilliant performance in "Capote." You can't take your eyes off Philip as Truman Capote, who pioneered the nonfiction novel genre with his "In Cold Blood" in the early '60s.

Then we walked (a lot of walking in this clean, beautiful Canadian city) from the Sutton Place Hotel to the Four Seasons Toronto for our "Dreamer" press con with Dakota Fanning, who is considered an acting genius by no less than Steven Spielberg, and Kurt Russell. Someone should check the birth certificate of Dakota—she is preternaturally mature for someone who's only 11 years old. (To be continued)

***

I blame it on film festival madness and sleep deprivation. My apologies for errors in last Friday's column. The last name of "Masahista (The Masseur)" filmmaker Dante is Mendoza, not Lopez; Ralph Fiennes portrayed Amon Goeth in "Schindler's List," not "Saving Private Ryan."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

ROUNDUP

That was quick!

LOS ANGELES—Bridget Jones is untying the knot.

Renee Zellweger, who played the lovelorn Brit in "Bridget Jones' Diary," and country music star Kenny Chesney will have their four-month-old marriage annulled, Chesney's publicist, Holly Gleason, and Zellweger's Los Angeles-based publicist Nanci Ryder, have confirmed.

In court papers filed Wednesday, Zellweger listed "fraud" as the reason for the breakup but did not elaborate. A phone call to her attorney was not immediately returned.

This brings to an end a whirlwind romance that began shortly before a surprise wedding in May.

The 36-year-old actress and Chesney, 37, wed in a small ceremony on the Caribbean island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It was the first marriage for both. *AP*

Boy for Britney

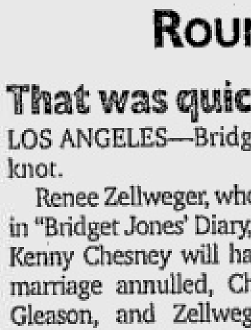
LOS ANGELES—Pop singer Britney Spears announced the birth of her baby boy on Thursday, saying on her website that everyone was happy and healthy.

"It's a boy!" said the greeting on www.britneyspears.com, over a picture of blue balloons and Spears kissing her husband Kevin Federline. It added: "Everyone is happy, healthy and doing wonderful."

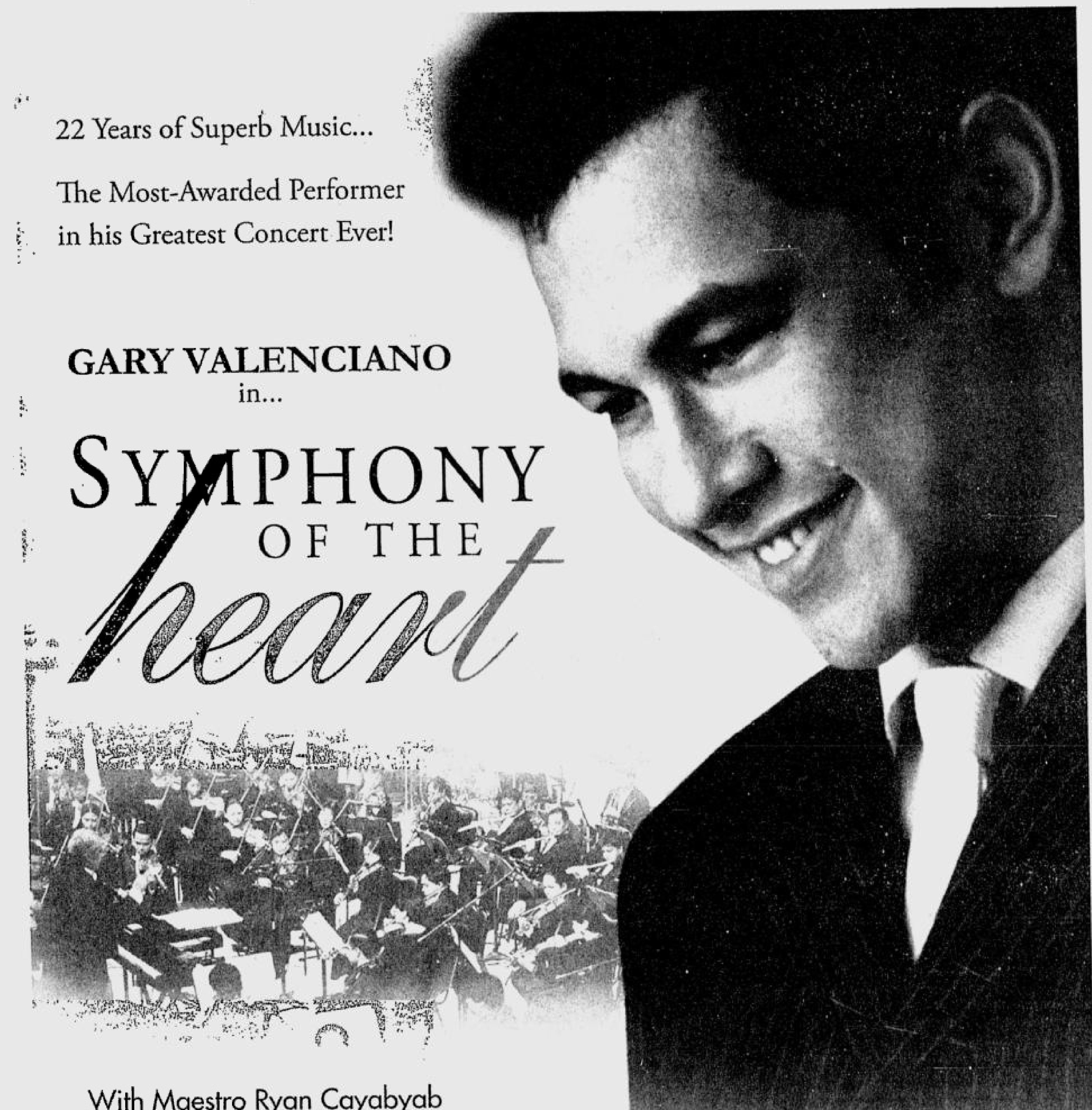
Us Weekly magazine said the baby was born by Caesarean section on Wednesday at a hospital Santa Monica, west of Los Angeles.

Spears, 23, married dancer Federline, 27, in September last year. Us Weekly said the couple planned to call the boy Preston Michael Spears Federline. *Reuters*

Erik launches 3rd album



ERIK Santos launches his second full-length album, "Loving You Now," today on ABS-CBN's "ASAP," to be telecast live from Shopwise Harrison Plaza. Erik will sign autographs for early buyers. At 4 p.m., he will have a show at the Upper Ground Floor of SM Manila.



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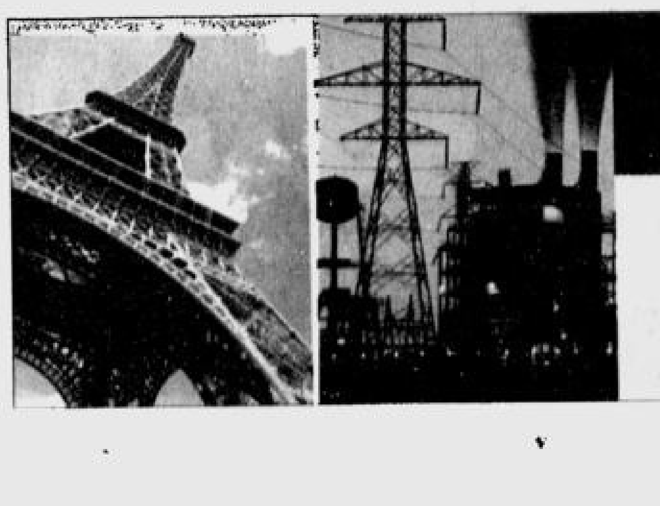

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Old ways still work for Vigan's centuries-old industries

LOOM weavers of abel iloco at Cristy's loom weaving in Camangga, Vigan City, still use the 100-year- old practice.

Text and Photos by Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—AT THE HEART of Ilocos Sur is Vigan, an old world amid the bustle of commercial activity.

Though considered one of the oldest cities in the country, it was only in 2001 that Vigan was recognized a full-fledged component city of Ilocos Sur.

It was founded as a Spanish colonial settlement and a hub of the Galleon Trade in northern Philippines in 1572. But long before the Spaniards arrived, Vigan was an important trading post frequented by Chinese merchants passing through the South China Sea.

Despite modernity creeping into their city (as shown by giant fast-food joints sprouting in the town plaza), Bigueños have stayed close to tradition and nurtured local industries that kept their commercial wheels turning.

In Vigan's centuries-old industries of production of clay tiles and jars, the abel iloco (Ilocano woven cloth), longganiza (native sausage) and *bibingka* (native cake), tradition persists.

Mayor Ferdinand Medina says the city government supports these traditional industries to preserve local culture and, at the same time, attract tourists.

"Promoting old practices in traditional industries is part of our efforts to preserve local culture," he says.

Medina adds that the city was promoting Barangays Bulala and Paratong as the "Damili (pottery) Village" to help sustain the livelihood of residents there.

These villages are the major sources of clay used in producing Vigan jars and tiles.

Loom weaving

In Barangay Camangga, Cristy Atinaja, owner of the Cristy's loom weaving, says her 22 workers rely on their bare hands and their old wooden weaving equipment to produce the finest abel iloco sought by local and international designers.

Atinaja, who inherited the business from her parents, says maintaining the hand woven trademark of their products has attracted tourists and proved good for business.

A meter of abel iloco is sold for P35 to P50, depending on its style and design. Her abel iloco and other products fashioned from the cloth (table runners, throw pillow covers, place mats and napkins, shawls) sell briskly from November to May, the peak months for local tourism.

OLD WAYS/ B2

She creates trinkets from magazine covers, brochures

YEPS
Young Entrepreneurs

SHE COULD HAVE SPENT more time in bars, malls, or movie theaters like most of her generation usually do.

Instead, this Fine Arts student opted to discover more of her talents by producing exceptional fashion and gift accessories making her one of the youngest entrepreneurs to join the ranks of Negros Occidental producers and entrepreneurs.

Jennifer Gaurana, 23, says it started as a hobby two years ago. But soon, her unique and ingenious designs and creations of bags with matching bracelets and earrings caught the interest of Negros producers who prodded her to make more and bring them to market. Last year, she was invited to become a member of the Association of Negros Producers, which runs the Showroom of Negros Product in Bacolod City.

ANP is also the organizer of the 20-year-old Negros Trade Fair that opens Sept. 23 to Oct. 2, 2005 at the "Negros! Negros! at the Gateway!" festival at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

This year will be Jennifer's third time to join the trade fair.

Her products include bags, mainly made of fishing twines, pandan and bamboo, and bracelets and earrings made of rolled tiny papers she took from magazine covers and colored brochures. They are under her label, Neoropeworks.

Jennifer was not only able to discover her gift for creativity at an early age. She has also become a moving force in her community as she has encouraged out-of-school youths in her barangay to help her work on her creations so they can have a worthwhile activity that can also give them a source of income.

She says she takes in at least 30 out-of-school youths in her peak production days. Ordinary times, she maintains a workforce of 10 out-of-school youths.

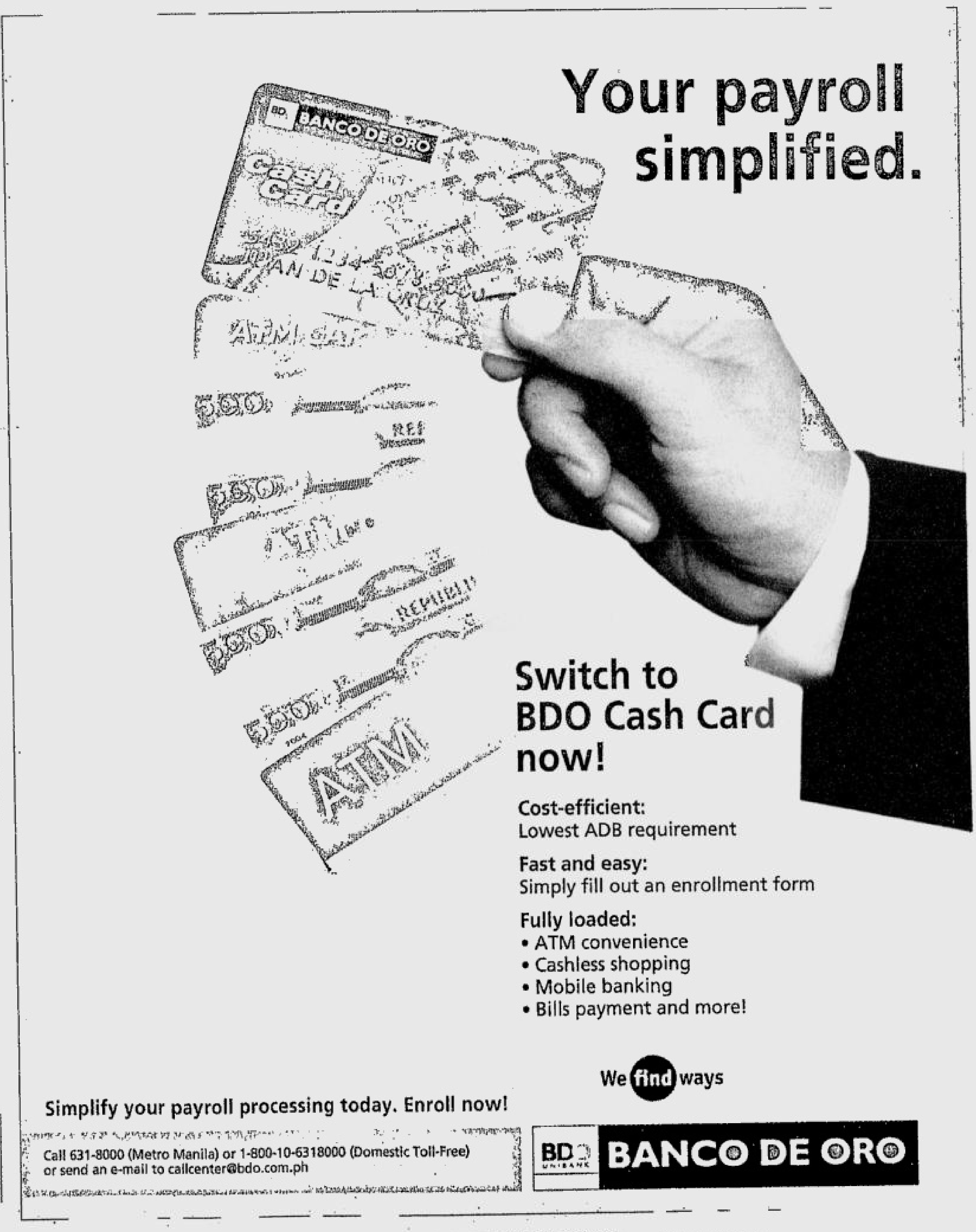
Don't look now, but at her age, she is already able to send her products to Europe. She says she had a buyer from Manila who referred her products to another. Soon, she received an order and was able to send 16 designs of bags and eight boxes of accessories to Europe.

But Jennifer wants to take it slowly as far as exports are concerned. A popular resort in France would have been her second export client but she did not feel she was ready to meet the demands. "I would rather turn down the order than disappoint the client," she says.

Now on her senior year, Jennifer says she is not yet sure which she should pursue for keeps, her passion for designing bags and accessories or her love as an artist.

Whichever path she takes, Jennifer has already made her mark not only in art and design but also in the field of entrepreneurship.

GAURANA



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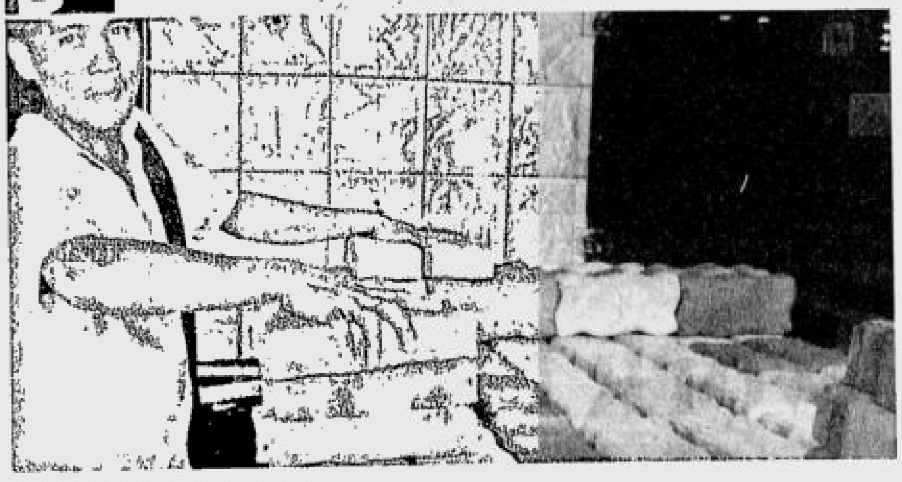


VIGAN interlocking red tiles are pegged at P20 per piece. It is the hottest product among the Vigan tiles in the city today.

From page B1

Atinaja says her outlet at the Vigan Heritage Village in Calle Crisologo could earn at least P200,000 during the Holy Week when tourists swarm the city.

Jars and tiles

The hardy jar and tile makers of Vigan have also proven that dirtying their hands could help them earn a living, as their products have become staples of the landscape industry.

Only three jar makers continue to do business in the city, but production still relies on traditional tools and ingredients used by their forefathers—a stone potter's wheel, Vigan clay, earthen stoves and carabao used for kneading the clay.

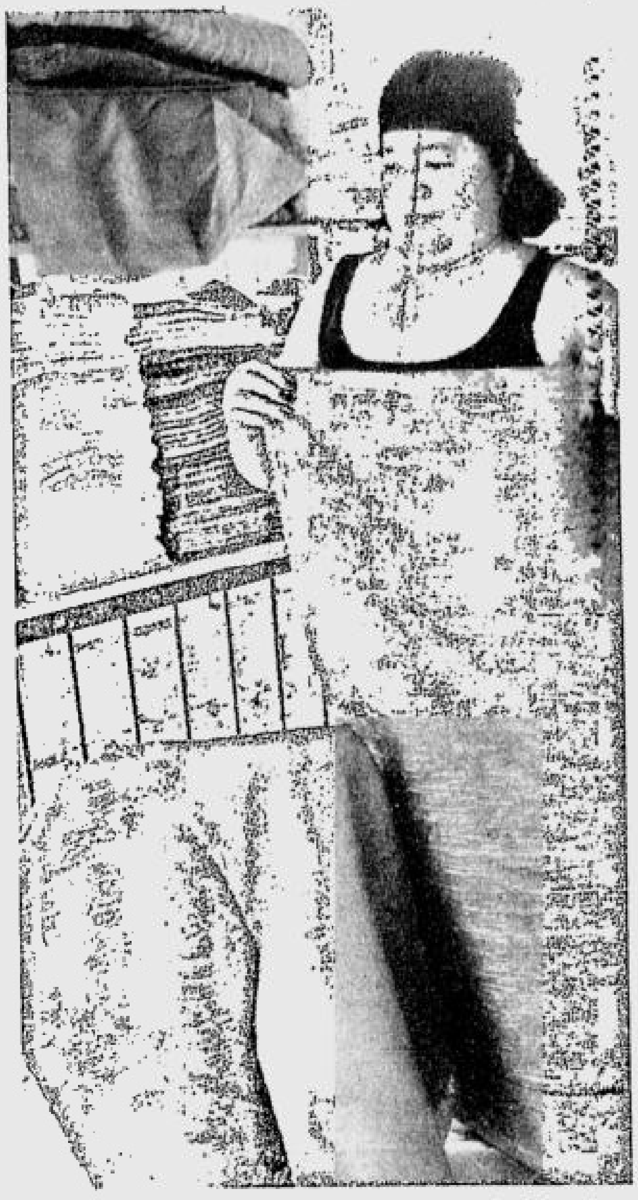
Fidel Go, owner of the Ruby Pottery, says he and his workers rely on nothing else but their hands in shaping and molding the jars, which are sold for P400 to P500 each. Small pieces and disfigured jars go for as low as P50.

Records from the city government showed that 26,096 tourists visited Vigan from January to March this year, with the bulk of visitors coming during the Holy Week.

In an earlier interview, Hermenegildo Etrata, officer-in-charge of the city planning office, said part of the future development in Vigan involved improving access to other tourist destinations outside the poblacion (town center).

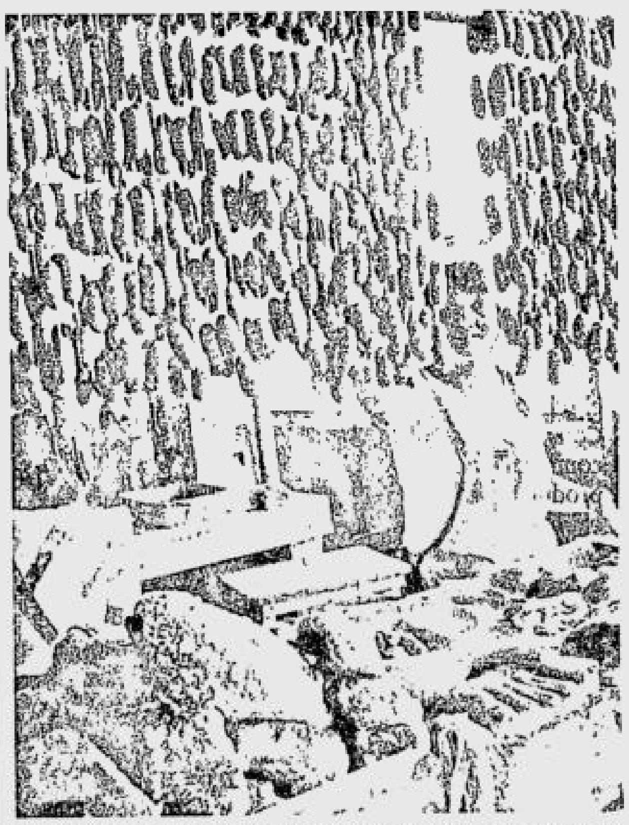
The city government has started dredging the Mestizo River to make it navigable again.

The river, which encircles Vigan, used to be a major waterway from the 15th to 19th century and played an important part in the Galleon Trade.

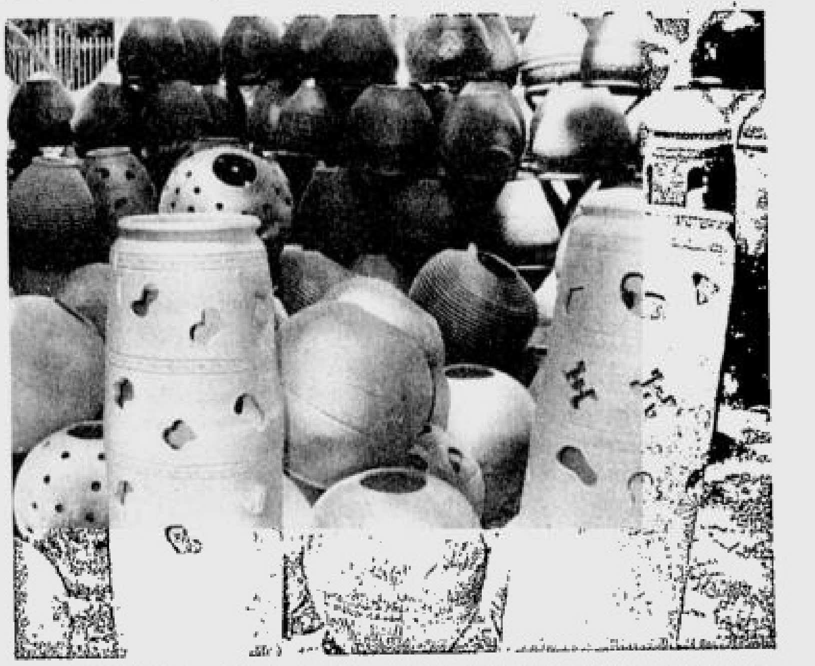


CRISTY Atinaja shows the P50 per meter abel iloco in her store in Vigan City.

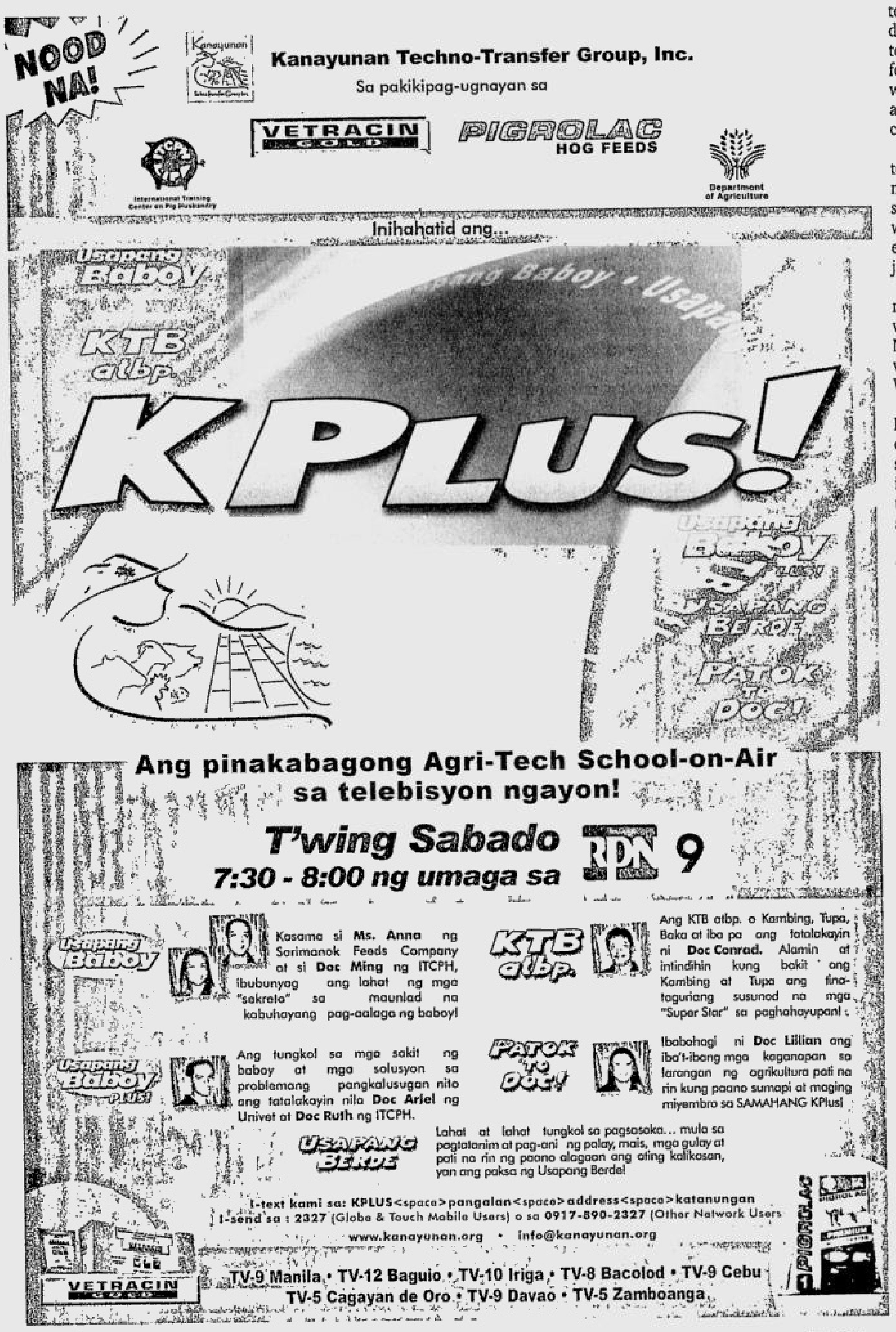
THE VIGAN jar being molded is priced at P400 to P500.



ANITA Ramolete of the Vigan Public Market promotes her longganiza priced at P80 per dozen. The bagnet is P300 per kilo.



THE ARMIDA'S umbrella holder sells for P1,600 while the jars behind it are priced at P600 each.



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PULILAN AUCTION
AUCTION DATE : SEPTEMBER 25, 2005 10:30 AM (SUNDAY)
SITE ADDRESS : 333 Old National Highway, Sto. Cristo, Pulilan, Bulacan
ARTICLES : GENERAL MERCHANDIZE, Consisting of furniture, fixtures, office equipment, household items, power tools, gensets, etc. REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P 5,000

ON-SITE AUCTION
AUCTION DATE : SEPTEMBER 29, 2005 10:30 AM (THURSDAY)
SITE ADDRESS : GENERAL HOME STORE, MC HOME DEPOT, Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig City
ARTICLES : FURNITURES, FIXTURES, ANTIQUES, BRIC-A-Brac, decor, collectibles, etc. REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P 5,000

ON-SITE AUCTION
AUCTION DATE : OCTOBER 02, 2005 10:30 AM (SUNDAY)
SITE ADDRESS : BULACAN AGRO-INDUSTRIAL, MAC ARTHUR HI-WAY, CALUMPIT, BULACAN
ARTICLES : (2) PARCELS OF LAND AND BUILDINGS, AND CONTENTS, CONSISTING of brand new construction/finishing materials from California, USA, such as oak panel doors, water closet, lavatory, stainless sink, elec meters, handle, hingers, faucet, military uniform & textile materials, stretchers, rolled metal, etc. REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P 5,000

ON-SITE AUCTION
AUCTION DATE : OCTOBER 05, 2005 10:30 AM (WEDNESDAY)
SITE ADDRESS : 68 KALAYAAN AVE., QUEZON CITY
ARTICLES : GENERAL MERCHANDIZE, Consisting furniture, fixture equipment, power tools, cabinets, glassware, old coins, collectibles, etc. REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT P 5,000

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Realizing sense and simplicity

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

BERLIN—ANALYSTS HAVE prophesied the New Millennium will be a century driven by smaller, more agile firms that could easily adapt to changes and market demands.

Traditional brick and mortar firms may have ignored these predictions initially but sleeping giants wake up, too.

Three years ago, 114-year-old Royal Philips Electronics, the Netherlands-based firm that invented the light bulb, roused itself from sleep and knew it had to change.

Ironically, its focus was on the right track—technology. But as Rudy Provoost, president and chief executive officer of Philips Consumer Electronics, said, the company realized it had great products and great technology but it was unable to fully impart this to the consumer.

"From a technology-driven company, we want to be marketing-driven. We are bringing marketing to the top of our agenda," stated Gottfried H.A. Dutine, EVP and member of the board of management of Philips in a meeting with Asian journalists during the recent Internationale Funkausstellung (World of Consumer Electronics), the world's leading consumer electronics fair held in the German capital.

Competition played a role in the shift. "If you look at the consumer electronics market 35 years ago, there were only 30 brands. Today, there are over 100."

The changes initially announced by Royal Philips president Gerard Kleisterlee two years ago, when he described the end of the monolithic industrial structure of Philips and of the consumer electronics industry and said firms needed to be flexible enough to redefine the borders and rules of consumer electronics.

The overhaul of corporate direction was embodied in the phrase "sense and simplicity." This has become the firm's battle cry propelling them in the current arena.

The point of this phrase is to tell consumers Philips products are user-friendly. No complicated manuals are needed and all you need to do is plug and use.

Realizing simplicity today

"The journey of realizing simplicity today really starts with the consumer. All too often we have seen innovation driven by technology for technology's sake ... whereas simplicity should be at the heart of the consumer experience. Our research results and consumer insights suggest the public is, in fact, tired. Tired of not being able to record a program on TV ... tired of spending hours reading an instruction manual ... tired of complexity for its own sake...

"The reality is that our lives are too complex already. We want simplicity in our relationship with technology ... technology that gets the job done rather than drawing attention to itself; technology that gets the job done without us even being aware of it," stated Provoost in his keynote speech at the IFA.

The latest Philips products were put on display at IFA where the firm had the biggest exhibit hall.

Philips adopted three fundamental principles for a product, or service, or experience to pass the simplicity litmus test: It should be designed around the user's needs; it must be easy to experience and it must be advanced and innovative.

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics CEO Rudy Provoost

Chief marketing officer

A major change Philips adopted in its bid to be more attuned to the consumers was the creation of a chief marketing officer for its consumer electronics division. Of the conglomerate's total annual revenues of about $30 billion, consumer electronics, which includes home entertainment and mobile phones, accounts for one-third or some $10 billion.

Its first CMO is Lucas Covers who said his biggest challenge is to live up to sense and simplicity.

"Our aim is to provide solutions to what the consumers want," he said. "It's not just about technology but what we can bring to you."

Philips has five divisions—consumer electronics, medical systems, lighting, semi-conductor and domestic appliance products. In the Philippines, Philips has a huge semi-conductor plant in Laguna that employs 5,000.

While one third of Philips' revenues come from consumer electronics, some 8 percent of its sales or some $1.8 billion is invested in research and development.

Rick Harwig, CEO of Philips Research, said they do half of their research work with universities all over the world. It has labs in various continents.

The focus of the research is the medical arena and lifestyle products. Harwig said the research includes putting the new products in actual houses to see how the consumers react to these.

Royal Philips Electronics is one of the world's biggest electronics firms and Europe's largest, with sales of $ 37.66 billion in 2004. With activities in the three interlocking domains of healthcare, lifestyle and technology and 159,700 employees in more than 60 countries, it has market leadership positions in medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring, color television sets, electric shavers, lighting and silicon system solutions.

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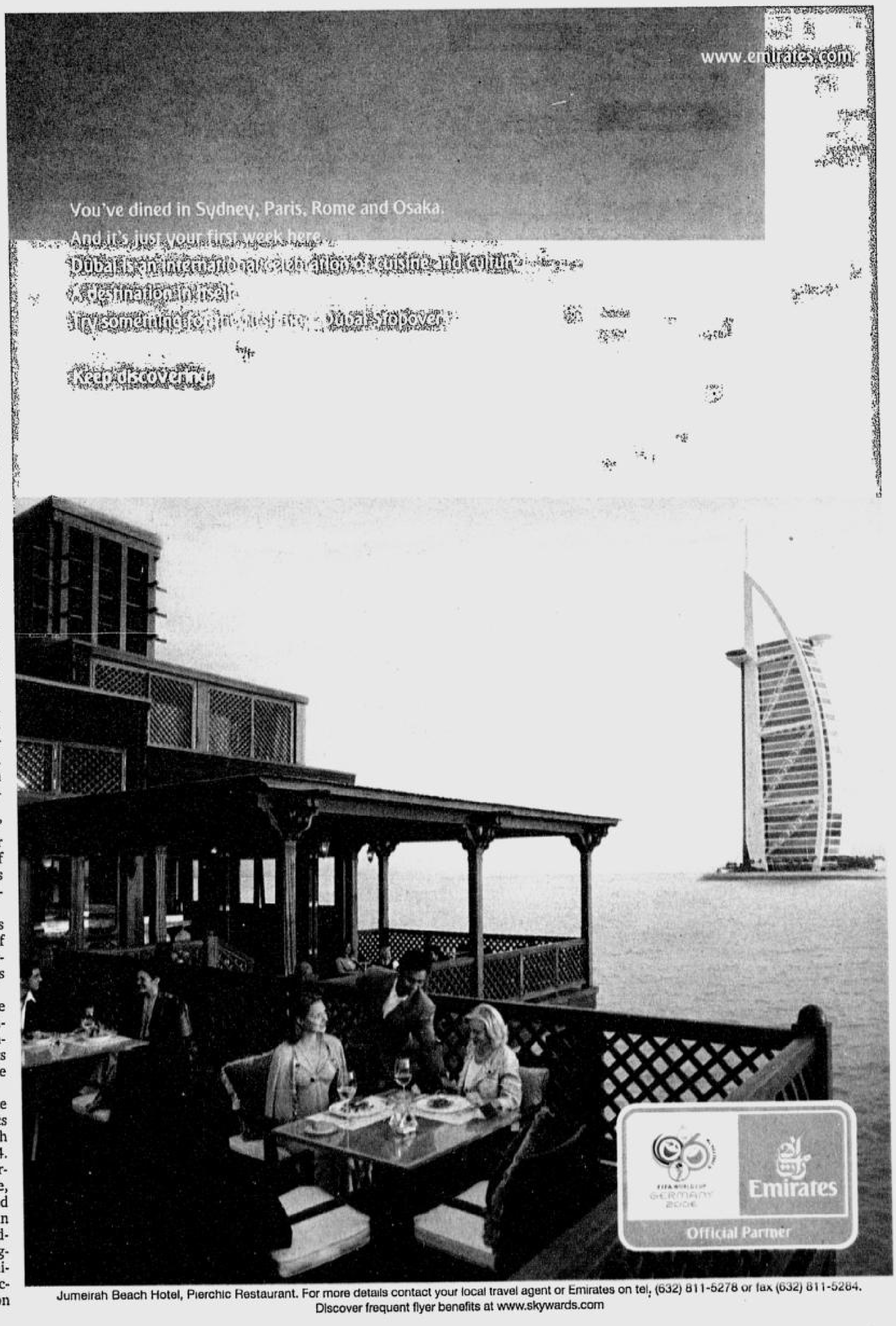

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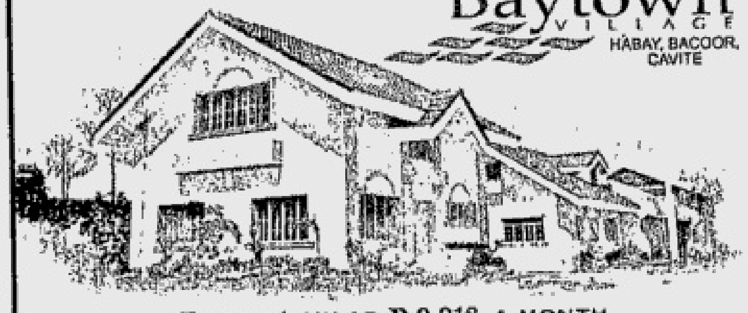

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Emmanuel S. De Leon has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 88; Page 18; Book II; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Raul L. Hipona of Manila. (PDI-Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE METROPOLITAN CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE NO. B-0850 UNDER SEALAND SERVICES, INC. WAS DECLARED LOST. IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED IN ONE (1) YEAR, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI-SEPT. 4,11 & 18, 2005)

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---

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be advised that **ALL DELINQUENT MEMBERS** of Subic Bay Golf & Country Club Inc. published in Philippine Daily Inquirer of its issues to February 9, 2003 and March 7, 2004 are declared forfeited in favor of the club.

(PDI – Sept. 18, 2005)

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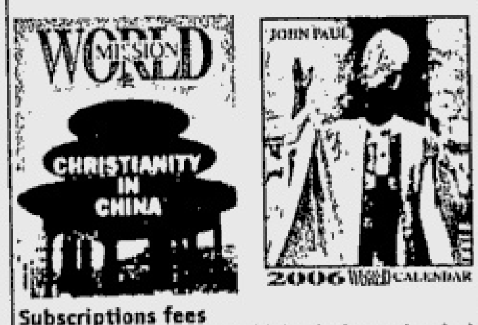

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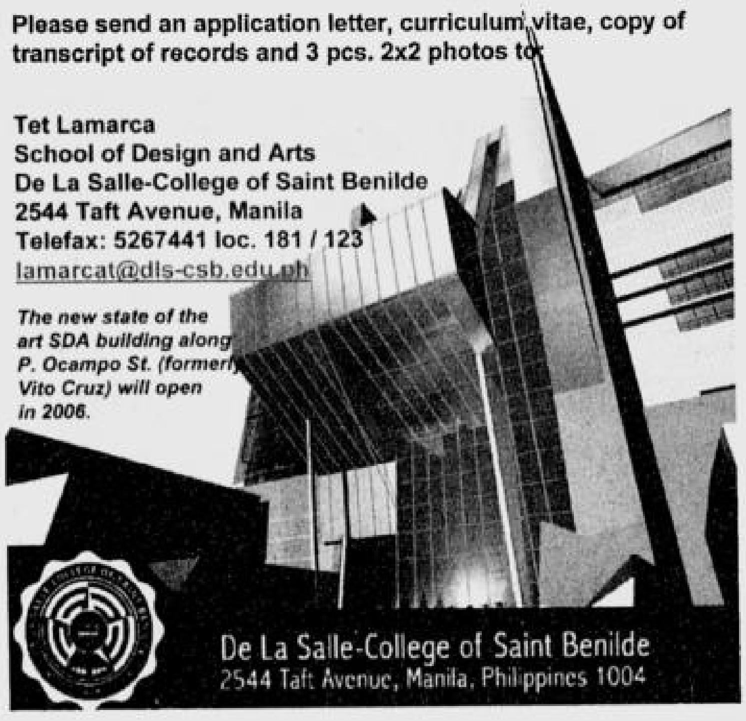

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Supply and Delivery-Rebid)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
Fortified Biscuits	Php7,164,000.00	September 28, 2005 2:00 p.m.	October 10, 2005 10:00 a.m.	Php4,000.00	BALS Conference Rm., 4th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	HNC

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **September 20, 2005** upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no: 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
Vice-Chairperson, BAC

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

AMORE

Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program

Request for Proposal

The AMORE program seeks to bolster the Philippine national government's peace and development program in Muslim Mindanao by improving the quality of life in at least 160 rural communities through intensive community organizing activities centered on stand-alone sustainable renewable energy systems. To further develop local capabilities, create synergies and minimize operational overhead and setbacks in the implementation of the project, AMORE engages the services of Mindanao-based or - focused non-government organization (NGOs), where possible, community organizing work for rural electrification.

I. Objectives

This capacity assessment project aims to:

1. Distinguish the current and desired level of capacities of NGO service providers in implementing AMORE interventions;
2. Generate a comprehensive list of capacity-building needs that address human resource development and organizational development for the AMORE NGO service providers;
3. Identify and prioritize specific problem areas and opportunities, focusing on the performance requirements for AMORE implementation and sustainability.
4. Outline a capacity-building program for AMORE NGO service-providers that will be relevant to facilitate the implementation and sustainability of AMORE RE systems.

II. Expected Outputs

1. Established clearly-defined capacity-building needs of at least 10 NGO service-providers of AMORE.
2. Capacity-Building interventions for AMORE NGO service-providers is designed and proposed.
3. Developed and Packaged a set of Capacity-Assessment Tools and Manual for AMORE NGO service-providers to be used by program management.

III. Assessment Framework

1. Establishing the "Benchmark" and the "Capacity Gap".
2. Identifying Priorities and Importance of Required Capacities.
3. Action Planning for Possible Solutions and Opportunities for Capacity-Building.

IV. Schedules

1. Deadline for submission of proposal and work plan is September 30, 2005.
2. Proposal format - Please request copy of the proposal format from Mr. Channa Lantican by sending a letter of intent and a copy of your organizational brief to mclantican@amore.org.ph.

(PDI – Sept. 18, 2005)

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LOURDES REYES DIZON

Born February 17, 1912 peacefully passed away on September 15, 2005 at the age of 93.

Her late husband **Jose Dizon**; brothers and sisters **Paquito** (†) and **Ching, Pacio** and **Asyang** (†), **Rita** (†), **Naty** and **Joe, Maling** and **Felicing, Peping** (†) and **Nena** (†); sons and daughters **Rosalle** and **Virgilio, Teddy** and **Paulette, Monching** and **Angelita, Mel** and **Nina, Cesar**; grandchildren **Joe** and **Terra, John** and **Chris, Tetet** and **Arthur, Karen, Paolo, Jenny** and **Mike, Gary, Justin, Anna**; great grandchildren **Caleb, Briana, Francesca** and relatives request pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on September 20, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of

ANNA CARISSA TIAOQUI-GAN

October 15, 1973 - September 18, 2004

Her husband **Owen**, parents **Mario** & **Ma. Loretta Tiaoqui**, siblings **Mario Jr., Christina** and **Juan Imperial**, parents-in-law **Rodolfo** and **Lilian Gan** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

God saw you getting tired
When a cure was not to be
So He closed His arms around you
And whispered "Come to me"
You didn't deserve what you went through
And so He gave you rest
God's garden must be beautiful
He only takes the best
So when we saw you sleeping
So peaceful and free from pain
We could not wish you back
To suffer that again

The Holy Sacrifice of the mass will be offered for her today, September 18, 2005 at:
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati...... 12:00 NN
Family Residence - Dasmariñas Village, Makati....... 6:00 PM

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

"For it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."
Prayer of St. Francis

To our beloved

EDMUNDO MILLS GAERLAN

B – Notre Dame Hospital, Baguio City, November 16, 1931
D – Philippine General Hospital, Manila September 14, 2005

Beloved son of Hon. (†) JUAN LORENZANA GAERLAN & (†) ADELA MILLS GAERLAN

He will be greatly missed by wife EVE GENECELA & children EDMUND JAMES AUGUSTINE & wife YASINTA, their children NEALA VANGELIN & DYLAN FRANCISCO; MAJESTY EVANGELINE; JOHN DEREK MARK; KENNETH LORD JARRED; LUV ADELA & husband JUN NOGOY, & their child CASSANDRA XERAFINA; JEREMY BRETT MILLS; and ALTHEA MARIE.

EDDIE was the youngest baby of (†) JUAN & (†) ADELA; the eldest baby of (†) JOHNNY & JOSIE; the playmate baby of LOUISE & TRINING; the baby brother of (†) MIKE, (†) BERT, (†) BEN & (†) RUDY; the darling baby of PILARING, PURING, BLANDING, GING, TOOTS & BABES; the baby uncle of (†) BOB, (†) NORMA, LITA, DEANNA, JOJO, ALVIN, MERCY, WILLY, GRACE & BEN PAUL; of JOAN, MAC, JANE, DOLLY, CHIPPY & (†) ELY, of MYRNA, ELLEN, GLENNA & the double trouble JEFFREY & JETHRO; of MALOU, NALLY, BETTY & FRITZI; of ROYCE, RICARDO, GEORGE, MARILOU & SUSAN and the rest of the nephews & nieces.

The grand baby of his children & wife and now the baby in the bosom of his LORD JESUS CHRIST.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Mass and final blessing will be on Monday, September 19, 2005 at 8:30 p.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, at Loyola Memorial Park Parañaque City at 9:00 a.m.

We, the family of the late

Atanasia Bonifacio Malsi

wish to express our sincere
thanks and appreciation
to those who condoled with us.
Thank you for your kind words,
for the flowers you sent, the masses you offered,
the material and spiritual assistance you gave.
You were a source of comfort and strength
in our time of grief.

ROBERTO "BIBOY" A. DE SANTOS

Died in the grace of our Lord on September 16, 2005 at the age of 60.

His loving wife **MILA C. LIQUETE-DE SANTOS**; stepchildren **KAREN & RICHARD LIQUETE**; sisters & brother-in-law **MA. PAZ** (*Baby*) & **JAMES STONE ARACELI** (*Nene*); mother-in-law **BELEN**; sisters & brothers-in law **NONIE, CORA & STEVE, CHAREE & TONY, VICKIE & DENNIS** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz (South Wing), Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 after the 8:00 A.M. mass.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

CLASSIFIEDS

Imported rice supply for NFA Capiz

SOME 15,000 bags of rice imported by the National Food Authority from Vietnam is being allocated to the province of Capiz as food security stocks during the lean months. Capiz provincial manager Sergio Balofiños said the stocks are being equally distributed in the 17 municipalities of the province. The rice stocks are being stored in the Bolo and Dumalag warehouses of the NFA. He said, the monitoring teams of the NFA under the Palengke Watch program are looking into any irregularities that may be committed by unscrupulous rice traders. NFA rice is being sold at P16 and P18 per kilogram through the Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (BGP) outlets, Tindahan ni Gloria sa Barangay (TGB) and through NFA-accredited outlets both inside and outside public markets. For more information, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

BIARSP

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

Office Furniture

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation, BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading the physical state of its field offices to provide conducive working environment for its staff and have efficient delivery of service. The purchase of office tables, office chairs, type writing tables, bookshelves, office cabinets, visitor's chairs are found to be necessary.

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible companies to express their interest to pre qualify to bid for the above office equipment. The equipment shall be delivered to the four (4) provinces of Region VII and four (4) provinces of Region IX.

Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES - Tenders) for the detailed list of office equipment to be purchased as well as delivery destinations for said equipment. Please submit document with information such as company profile, proposed budgetary requirements, description/experience of similar assignments through any of the following:

E-mail : tsco@biarsptsco.org
Post : BIARSP - TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y. Mar Bldg.,
Cor. Rizal Blvd. - San Juan Street,
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax : (035) 422-7736

For further queries, please get in touch with Mary Marlyn O. Llosa, Administrative Officer, at tel. #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459.

In view of the urgency of the proposed activity, interested parties are advised to submit their documents not later than September 30, 2005.

(PDI - Sept 18 & 19, 2005)

National Steel Corporation

FOR SALE/LEASE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION		AREA (SQM)
IA. BAGUIO GUESTHOUSE NO. 1	SALE	LA-340, FA-190
IB. BAGUIO GUESTHOUSE NO. 2 Monterazzas Village, Itogon Benguet		LA-310, FA-276
II. BOHOL LOT (Agricultural/Industrial) Brgy. Malayo, Cortes, Bohol	SALE	206,622
III. PASIG LOT (Industrial) Elisco Road, Brgy. Kalawaan, Pasig City	LEASE	118,132

NOTES:
1. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Ara Agliam.
2. Deadline for submission of offer is on October 19, 2005 at 2PM.
3. The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Message of Thanks

The family of

CHUA HIONG

1916 – 2005

Widow of the late **LORENZO TAN**
Brooke's Point / Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Her bereaved children and grandchildren

DR. PACIFICO TAN (†) & CELIA LUY
– Nathaniel

MILDRED TAN & WELLINGTON LEE
– Shirley – Daniel
– Marilou – Jennifer

ROSALINA TAN & FELIX LAO
– Wesley – Alvin
– Kelvin – Jonathan
– Paul Elton

CONCHITA TAN & DR. SEGUNDO MORENO
– Kimmie – Nikki
– Melody – Christine

CLARITA TAN & PETER TAN, JR.
– Elizabeth Joy – Andrew Aaron
– Anthony Daniel

ATTY. VICENTE TAN & LILY TAN
– Vivian – Vicki
– Vincent – Lorenzo II

DR. CARMEN TAN & DR. HO TIONG ONG LO
– Winston – Dennis
– Angeli – Lynette

ANGELITA TAN & HENRY SO
– Katherine – Heindrich
– Margarita – Anna May

MELBA TAN & JOY TAN
– Jason

WILLIAM TAN & MARY LOU PE TAN
– Stephen – Patrick
– John Kenneth

JOSEPH TAN & DR. ANGELINA SY TAN
– Timothy – Jeffrey – Aileen Joyce

wishes to express our gratitude and appreciation for your support and kind expression of sympathy.

Marie Louise "Dinda" de Lange Mallari

Peacefully joined her Creator and her parents Alfonso de Lange Sr. and Francisca Nakpil de Lange on the sixteenth day of September, 2005.

We, her bereaved family, husband Michael de la Rosa Mallari; brother Alfonso de Lange Jr. and wife Kay Kozelka de Lange; children, Mark and Alexie Claparols, Michelle and Manoling Olondriz, and Nicolette; grandchildren Celine, Cesca, Manolo and Dedes, will miss der dearly and request family and friends to pray for the perpetual repose of her soul.

Mass and cremation will take place at 10 a.m. Monday, September 19, at the Heritage Memorial Park. Her remains will be transferred to the Capilla de San Francisco, Sanctuario de San Antonio. Mass will be held at 5 p.m. on the same day.

Interment will take place after the 10 a.m. Mass, Tuesday, September 20.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

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CLASSIFIEDS

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 08-99-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply, Delivery and Installation of One (1) lot Carpet

BRANCH	AREA	REMARKS
Pavilion	5,000 sq.m.	Supply, delivery and installation
	250 sq.m.	Supply and delivery

Brief Description : Fabric Construction: Tufted, patterned, cut pile carpet tile; Carpet Fiber: 80/20 wool nylon blend; Gauge:1/8 gauge; Density Factor: 410,256; Yarn weight: 40 oz. square yard/ 1356 gm/sqm; Max. of eight (8) colors that include silver, gold, bronze for 20 designs

Approved Budget : Seventeen Million Two Hundred One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P17,201,250.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from September 16, 2005 to October 10, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Eight Thousand Six Hundred & 63/100 Pesos (Php 8,600.63).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	September 28, 2005 (2 pm)
Submission of Bids	October 11, 2005 (2 pm)
Opening of Bids	October 11, 2005 (2 pm onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RENE C. FIGUEROA**
Chairperson, BAC 2

(PDI - Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

VP Noli, NHA chief assure Bulacan riles settlers of shelter security

VICE PRESIDENT AND HOUSING AND Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chairperson 'Kabayan' Noli de Castro and National Housing Authority (NHA) General Manager Federico Laxa yesterday assured riles settlers in Balagtas, Bulacan of housing and socio-economic services in the province.

VP Noli and Laxa made this assurance during their recent visit to Northville 6 in Balagtas where they initially awarded lots to 100 families relocated in Bulacan, particularly in the towns of Guiguinto, Balagtas, Meycauayan, Marilao, Bocaue and Malolos.

"In our effort to fully provide the Bulacan riles settlers with their basic needs, particularly in shelter security, this government will continously address your concerns, together with the cooperation and support of the local government units, the private sector, the NGOs and the communities," De Castro said.

Meanwhile GM Laxa said, to date, a total of 734 families have voluntarily relocated in Balagtas. He cited the support and attention accorded by the six LGUs and NGos in Bulacan which have made relocation and resettlement operations of the government faster, more humane and service-oriented.

The Balagtas resettlement project, or Northville 4, when completed, will uplift the quality of life of some 1,000 families in the area.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Municipality of Mabinay
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

September 18, 2005
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ***Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)*** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in CDC 3 - Baglic ARC, Brgys. Baglic & Begonia, Municipality of Mabinay, Province of Negros Oriental. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Mabinay, Province of Negros Oriental and implementing partner of the DLR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Rehabilitation of 2.708kms. Bagtic - Begonia Road*** under ***Contract No. RIRR 05 110 01 BAG-NO.***

Project Duration : **250 Calendar Days**
Bidding Documents : **PhP 5,000.00**
Minimum Bid Security : **PhP 145,000.00**
Bid Closing Date : **October 21, 2005 @ 2:00 PM**

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
12	Roadway Excavation	14,003.50	cu.m.
13.1	Structure Excavation for Spillway & Cross Drainage	177.20	cu.m.
13.2	Structure Excavation for Lined Canal & Grouted Riprap	794.57	cu.m.
14(1)	Embankment (From Roadway Excavated Materials)	1,868.40	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Coarse	1,624.96	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Coarse	1,624.96	cu.m.
50(3)	Installation of 610mm RCPC w/ Headwalls	16.00	ln.m.
50(4)	Installation of 910mm RCPC w/ Headwalls	24.00	ln.m.
51-2	Grouted Riprap w/ Cement Lining (Lined Canal)	975.40	cu.m.
SPL-1	SPL-1 Spillways w/ Wingwalls, Aprons & Concrete Pavement on Approaches (fc'=3,500psi)	2.00	units

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Vibratory Compactor Road Roller (1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-owned/leased

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Mabinay, Province of Negros Oriental, starting September 19, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on October 6, 2005 at 2:00 PM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP145,000.00 in the form of; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Mabinay, Province of Negros Oriental, on or before the Bid closing date on October 21, 2005 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Mabinay, Negros Oriental reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(SGD) HERMINIA M. PERAS
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – September 18, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-06-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website. http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Supply and Delivery)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract per Package (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
Package No. 1 23 sets consisting of Desktop Computer, Application Software, UPS, and colored Printer per set	Php2,300,000.00	September 21, 2005 10:00 a.m.	October 5, 2005 10:00 a.m.	Php2,000.00	Pre-bid: BALS Conference Rm. 4th Flr. Mabini Bldg., DepED, Pasig, City	TEEP-CPISU
Package No. 2 1 unit Computer Server	Php200,000.00				Bid Opening: Bulwagan ng Karunungan Rizal I Bldg., Pasig City	

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **September 13, 2005** upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no: 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Bac Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 11 & 18, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
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KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line 633-93-42
Trunk Line 632-13-61 locals 2221/2007
E-Mail Address jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation for Bids

Date : September 15, 2005
Loan No. : PH-P200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2005-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of the Second Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for **Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools** in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment following the schedules below.

Equipment Package	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Bid Opening
A. Science Equipment	September 19, 2005	November 8, 2005
B. Math and Physics Equipment	October 3, 2005	December 9, 2005
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	October 3, 2005	December 9, 2005

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain and inspect the bidding documents from the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph, http://www.procurementservice.org or http://www.sedip.ph.
6. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the dates indicated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the DepED cashier of a non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00 each per equipment package.
7. All bids shall be submitted together with the required bid security of not less than 2% of the total bid amount on the date indicated in paragraph 2 not later than 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal 1 Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. A pre-bid conference for the 3 equipment packages shall be held at the address stated in paragraph 7 on **October 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
9. The DepED BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
Vice-Chairperson, BAC

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

"Imagine what it would be like to motivate, influence and persuade people to agree to practically anything you propose." **- Matt Gill**

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September 30, 2005, 1:00p.m.-5:00p.m., Holiday Inn Galleria

The **5 Magical Ways** to make the **Client Trust You** instantly
* How to make the customers buy your idea: **6 Powerful Tools**
* The **4 Psychological Triggers** that turn your prospects on
* The **5 Potent Presentation Techniques** to win the sale
* Reading Body Language: **4 Invaluable Tips**
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* **BONUS** TOPICS:
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  > Review of the **6 Basic Presentation Techniques**
  > The art of sensory presentation: **3 Mental Maps**

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spi technologies

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With more than 6,500 professionals in its multi-cultural organization, SPI believes that a healthy organization is only possible with healthy, happy members who are satisfied both at work and at home. That's why we fully support your success in all aspects of your life - not just with excellent salaries, benefits, facilities and unlimited advancement, but also flexible schedules, educational assistance, community outreach endeavors, and personal development programs.

We are looking for the following professionals:

SOFTWARE MANAGER (PDI-SMGR)

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent
- Must have at least 5 years of work experience in a supervisory capacity. Preferably with 3 years of experience as assistant manager / manager specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent
- Excellent skills in systems analysis and design, and technical documentation
- Must have actual experience in Crystal Report, SQL, VB.Net. Skill in Visual Studio.Net, a plus
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- Applicants must be willing to work in Paranaque City

PROGRAMMERS (PDI-PRG)

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent
- Must have actual experience in Crystal Report, SQL, VB.Net. Skill in Visual Studio.Net, a plus
- With at least 3 years of work experience specializing in IT/Computer - Software or equivalent
- Applicants with 2 years experience in a supervisory capacity are encouraged to apply
- Has good oral and written communication skills
- Flexible and results-oriented
- Willing and able to start with SPI immediately
- Applicants must be willing to work in Paranaque City

Qualified candidates may send their updated resumés to:
For PDI-SMGR: **j.labis@spitech.com**
For PDI-PRG: **r.araga@spitech.com**

Submit personally or mail application to:
SPI Technologies
SPI Building, Pascor Drive
Sto. Niño, Parañaque City 1700

Include position code on the envelope or in the subject line.

Control Officer (Control Risk Assessment)

Description of Responsibilities

The position establishes, maintains, facilitates and coordinates internal control assessment in ADB, and prepares necessary reports as the basis for Management assertion and audit attestation; validates control risk assessments, categorizes control risk for summation into management reports, administers relevant databases to facilitate the recording and monitoring of necessary documentation and tasks, and provides technical assistance and support to other divisions within Controller's Department (CTL) and other departments of ADB, ensures the work area objectives are accomplished timely and effectively; reports directly to Section Head, Financial Systems and Control functions. Specific responsibilities include:

- Preparing a control plan documenting how ADB will be implementing an integrated internal control framework, roles and responsibilities of various departments, work program and deliverables, and appropriate business units' terms of reference;
- Preparing a control guide explaining to all managers and other staff in ADB their responsibilities within the control framework and the work required to support their representation over the adequacy and appropriateness of internal control;
- Conducting staff training on internal control and integrated internal control framework; demonstrating on how to use the appropriate tools to support assertion on the adequacy of internal controls, e.g. Horizon risk management tool;
- Developing and evaluating control risk assessment documentation guidance and training; developing the control risk management template to be used in the business process reviews;
- Establishing an internal control risks assessment mechanism throughout ADB by coordinating the documentation of process flow and reports dispositions by user areas throughout ADB as a basis for the internal control assessment;
- Coordinating the periodical internal control assessment with the assistance of Office of the Audit General (OAG) and in cooperation with other pertinent offices in ADB, and preparing necessary reports addressing the strength and weaknesses in the process flow for financial data preparation impacting ADB's financial reports;
- Performing administrative functions, such as budgetary requirements, allocating work to maximize the efficiency and productivity of the work area, and evaluating the performance of subordinates; participating in procedural and organizational review and making recommendations as appropriate; participating in the formulation of the Section's goals and objectives and the related plans and programs;
- Coordinating, facilitating, obtaining and providing required information in accordance with established procedures, in a tactful manner; and
- Performing any other assignments as required, including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports the Financial Control Specialist, Financial Systems and Control Section (CTAC-FSC), CTL.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- A bachelor degree in Computer Science or Business Administration major in Accounting; a CPA qualification, with background and experience in system analysis;
- At least five years experience in accounting or auditing, preferably in a highly computerized environment with multi-products and experience; with minimum of five years in a supervisory capacity with one of the big four accounting firms;
- Good understanding of internal control and business processes concepts to facilitate the evaluation of control risk assessment and internal control;
- Proven supervisory and interpersonal skills with ability to provide feedback to subordinates;
- Proficiency in and experience with specialized software and tools commonly used by international organization and corporation for risk management and internal control evaluation, such as Horizon or equivalent;
- Proficiency and relevant experiences in the interpretation and applications of International and American Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; ability to prepare staff instructions and guidelines and design of ad hoc reports;
- Good knowledge of accounting systems for banking industry;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English;
- Analytical, systematic and strong numerical skills, with great attention to details; and
- Ability to plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N005-178(4)-CTAC-FSC** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **23 September 2005.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

CIC deploys RP workers

THE CANADIAN IMMIGRATION CONSULTANCY (CIC), THE country's most reputable consultancy firm, is continually giving Filipinos a chance to live the life they dream about.

From January to June this year, over 400 principal applicants were granted permanent resident visas, including 729 spouse and dependent children. The visa grantees, comprising mostly of professionals, will now hold their ticket to one in a thousand opportunities. Most of them are financial managers, computer systems analysts and programmers, engineers, technical sales specialists, accountants, social workers, agriculturists, and social workers.

For over a decade, CIC has processed thousands of applicants that are now in the Canadian Embassy's priority lists. These include applications where screening has been completed and are now waiting for further notice from the embassy.

CIC offers various service packages that include 50 percent discount on standard consultancy fee. Clients are provided a complete range of services — from submission of application, correspondence with the Canadian Embassy, until their arrival in Canada. The service also includes enhancement of job description, document review, and proper encoding of application forms.

With the pass mark lowered to 67 points from 75 points, single applicants and those without relatives in Canada may now qualify.

For more information and free assessment, visit www.go2canada.com.

MAKES & PARTNERS

LAW FIRM

Career Opportunities in Indonesia

Makes & Partners is an independent, innovative and creative Indonesian law firm in the Indonesian corporate finance legal services market. We promote the commercial interests of clients by providing high quality legal services to our Indonesian and international clients. The market recognizes us for our role in advising on, and bringing to a successful completion, high profile and complex commercial transactions. In return, we offer our lawyers a challenging career with rewards to match. We are currently expanding our team of foreign lawyers and are looking for:

Corporate Finance Lawyers

Candidates should have their law degree from a reputable university and possess good interpersonal and communication skills. The position will be permanently based in Jakarta but may occasionally involve travel to other countries. He or she must have a minimum 4 years extensive experience, preferably with cross-border transactions, involving the following:

- Capital Markets
- Banking
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Corporate & Project Finance
- Corporate & Debt Restructurings

An attractive expatriate remuneration package commensurate with experience and ability will be offered to the successful candidates.

Interested candidates please send resumé with details of qualifications, experience, marital status and salary expectation, with contact telephone and e-mail address within 10 days after the publication of this advertisement to:

Makes & Partners
E-mail: makes@makeslaw.com

Only short-listed candidates will be notified. For further information regarding the firm, please visit http://www.makeslaw.com.

Expressions of Interest Building Works

Expressions of Interest are sought from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for all types of maintenance and project works at a prestigious residence, located in Forbes Park, Makati City. Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing & General Building Contractors should submit details of company, type and scope of services (trades) offered and list of clients. Security screening will occur and only selected Contractors will be notified for furthr discussions. Send information to **Ms. Charon Catalan**, Property Services Manager, Australian Embassy, Fax # 757-8268

National Steel Corporation

FOR SALE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
I. 1 LOT - MITSUBISHI 15T FORKLIFT & FORKLIFT PARTS
II. 106 UNITS - CONTAINER VAN (2.3M X 1.0M X 1.3M)
III. 1 LOT - USABLE / SCRAP STEEL
IV. 2 UNITS - ELECTRIC MOTORS (18.3 KW)
V. VARIOUS ITEMS, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. ACETYLENE TANKS, STEEL OFFICE FURNITURE, WELDING MACHINE, ETC.

NOTES:

1. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Ara Agliam.
2. Items are located and can be inspected at the National Steel Corp. Port Area Warehouse, 22nd St., Port Area, Manila from 9 PM to 3 PM (Mon-Fri).
3. Deadline for submission of offer is on October 12, 2005 at 2 PM at the Office of the Liquidator, Unit 2701, 88 Corporate Building, 141 Sedeno St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
4. The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

(PDI--Sept. 18, 2005)

MSH LEAD

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project

Management Sciences for Health, Inc. (MSH) is a contractor funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) tasked to implement the LEAD for Health Project. The LEAD for Health project is a three year project that aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning and selected health services (TB, HIV-AIDS and Vitamin A supplementation) and improve the policies and financing for these services. The project will seek to improve the capacity of the local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines, particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for family planning, TB and other selected health services. The project will accomplish these goals by (a) strengthening the financial, managerial and technical capacity of LGUs to deliver FP, TB and other selected health services, and developing local level support to deliver these services; and (b) improving the policy and legislative framework at both the national and local levels to finance and support these programs. Provision of technical assistance will help the LGUs develop commitment to and ownership of the project.

MSH invites local and international organizations to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of performance audits by independently verifying the achievement of benchmarks and the corresponding deliverables/performance targets of LGUs being assisted by the LEAD Project. Interested organizations must provide information such as company profile, brochure, description/experience of similar assignments, description of geographic networks within the country (detailing regional, provincial and/or municipal experiences), availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc. EOIs must be in writing and delivered to the address indicated below or via email no later than September 30, 2005.

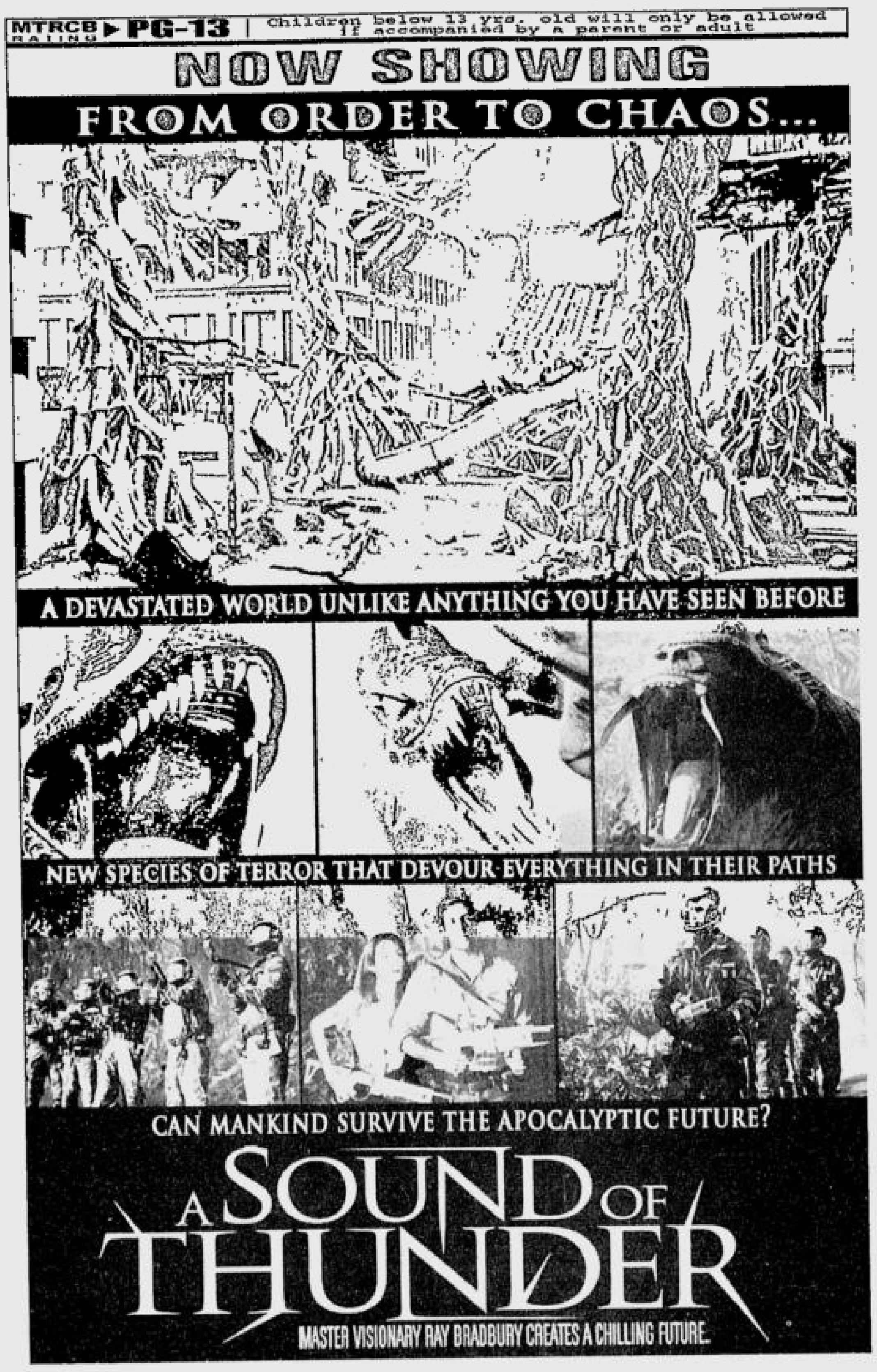
Performance-Based Contracts (PBC) Unit
Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T.M. Kalaw corner Cortada Streets, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 526-3877
Fax. No. (02) 521-0227
Email: pbcmanager@lead.org.ph

All EOIs shall be evaluated by MSH and only qualified organizations shall be invited to submit a proposal as described in the "Request for Proposals" that will be issued on a later date.

MSH reserves the right to reject any or all Application for Pre-qualification, waive any required formality therein, and accept the bid and award the subcontract to the most advantageous offer to the project. MSH assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

(PDI - Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

PMAP Annual Conference • Sept. 28-30, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City • Call 726-1532 /81/ 88 for details



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

NOW SHOWING

FROM ORDER TO CHAOS...

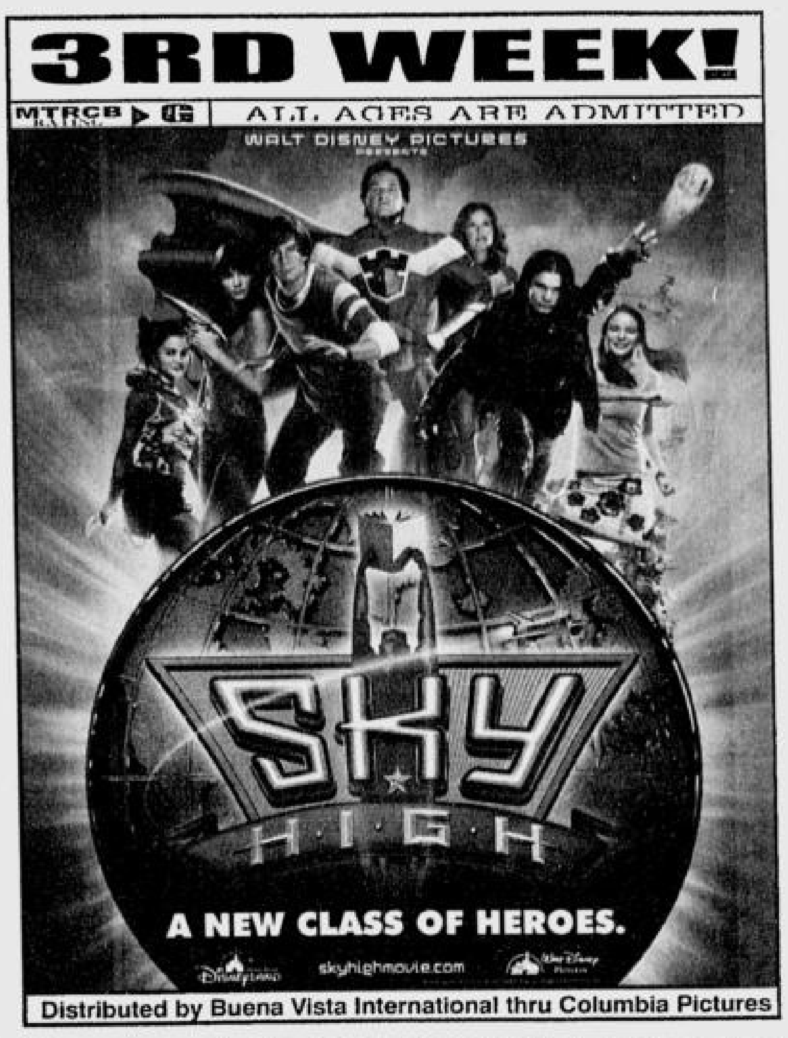
A DEVASTATED WORLD UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE

NEW SPECIES OF TERROR THAT DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS

CAN MANKIND SURVIVE THE APOCALYPTIC FUTURE?

A SOUND OF THUNDER

MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.



3RD WEEK!

MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

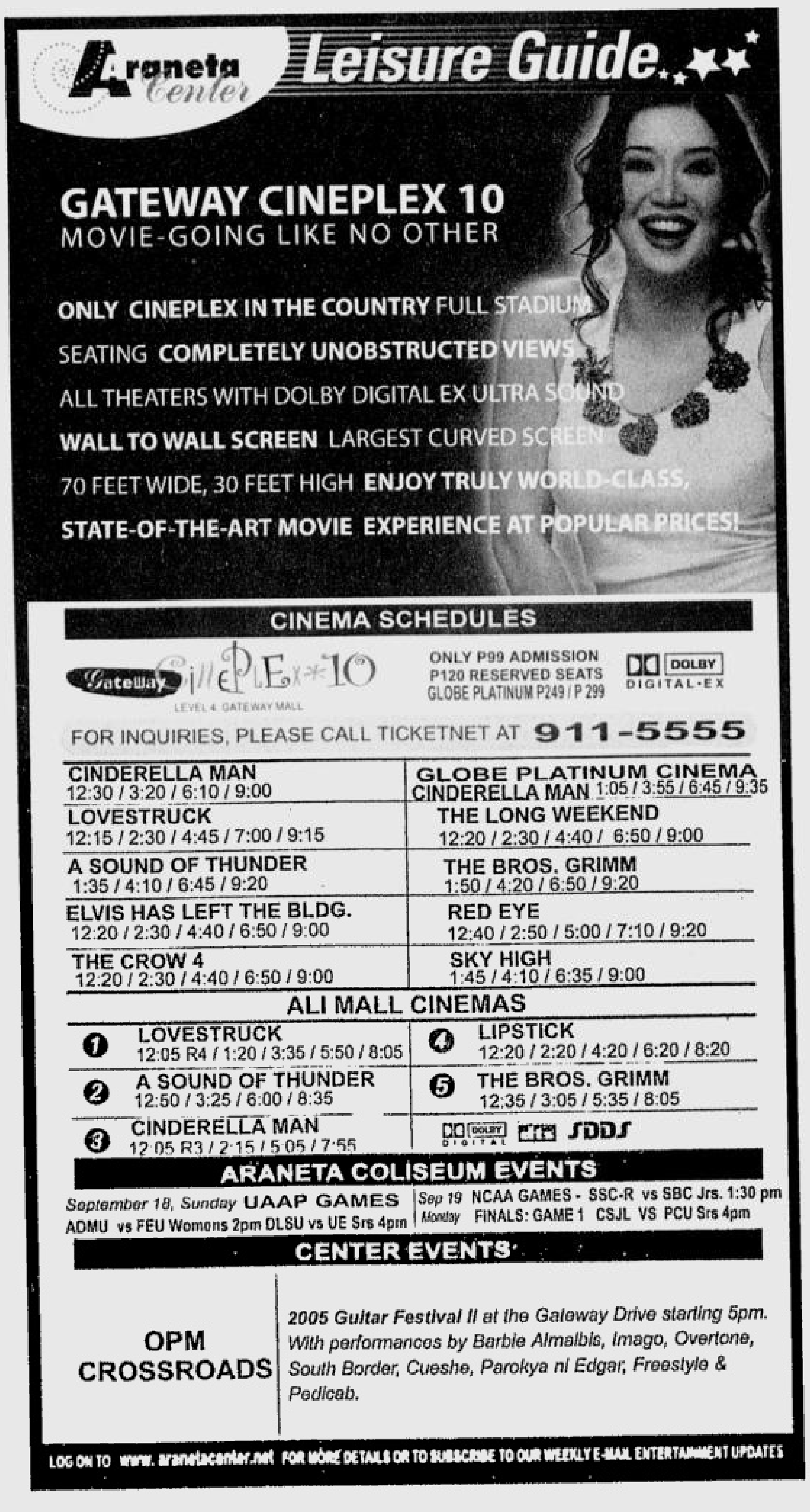
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS

SKY HIGH

A NEW CLASS OF HEROES.

skyhighmovie.com

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



Araneta Center Leisure Guide

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER

ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY FULL STADIUM SEATING COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS ALL THEATERS WITH DOLBY DIGITAL EX ULTRA SOUND WALL TO WALL SCREEN LARGEST CURVED SCREEN 70 FEET WIDE, 30 FEET HIGH ENJOY TRULY WORLD-CLASS, STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE EXPERIENCE AT POPULAR PRICES!

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CinePlex*10
LEVEL 4 GATEWAY MALL

ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P 299

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

CINDERELLA MAN 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CINDERELLA MAN 1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9:35
LOVESTRUCK 12:15 / 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00 / 9:15	THE LONG WEEKEND 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BLDG. 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE CROW 4 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	SKY HIGH 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ LOVESTRUCK 12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05	❹ LIPSTICK 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
❷ A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	❺ THE BROS. GRIMM 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❸ CINDERELLA MAN 12:05 R3 / 2:15 / 5:05 / 7:55	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

September 18, Sunday UAAP GAMES
ADMU vs FEU Womens 2pm DLSU vs UE Srs 4pm

Sep 19 Monday NCAA GAMES - SSC-R vs SBC Jrs. 1:30 pm
FINALS: GAME 1 CSJL VS PCU Srs 4pm

CENTER EVENTS

OPM CROSSROADS	*2005 Guitar Festival II at the Gateway Drive starting 5pm. With performances by Barbie Almalbis, Imago, Overtone, South Border, Cueshe, Parokya ni Edgar, Freestyle & Pedicab.*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633 2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN *PG13*
2 (DOLBY) A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 (DOLBY) RED EYE *PG13*
4 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM *PG13*

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) SKY HIGH *GP*

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) LONG WEEKEND
2 (SDDS) SKY HIGH
3 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
4 GOLD (DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) RED EYE
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER
8 (DOLBY STEREO) THE CAVE
9 (DOLBY STEREO) LONGEST YARD
10 (DOLBY STEREO) LOVE STRUCK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
3 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 (DTS) LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
4 CINDERELLA MAN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
3 (DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
4 DUKE OF HAZZARD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) EVIL EYE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
4 (DTS) BEWITCHED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 (DOLBY) SOUND OF THUNDER
3 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 (DOLBY) LOVE STRUCK

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE STRUCK
5 LIPSTICK

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LIPSTICK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVE STRUCK

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) LOVE STRUCK
2 VALIANT
3 (DTS EX) CINDERELLA MAN
4 LONGEST YARD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 VALIANT
3 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
4 (DTS) LONGEST YARD

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
3 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
4 (DTS) EVIL EYE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BEWITCHED
2 THE GREAT RAID

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SOUND OF THUNDER
5 CINDERELLA MAN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 LIPSTICK
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
6 LOVE STRUCK

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) DAY AFTER TOMORROW
2 KANGKONG
3 LIPSTICK
4 (DTS) CRASH

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 HOTDOG
3 (DTS) DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKELETON KEY
5 LOVE STRUCK

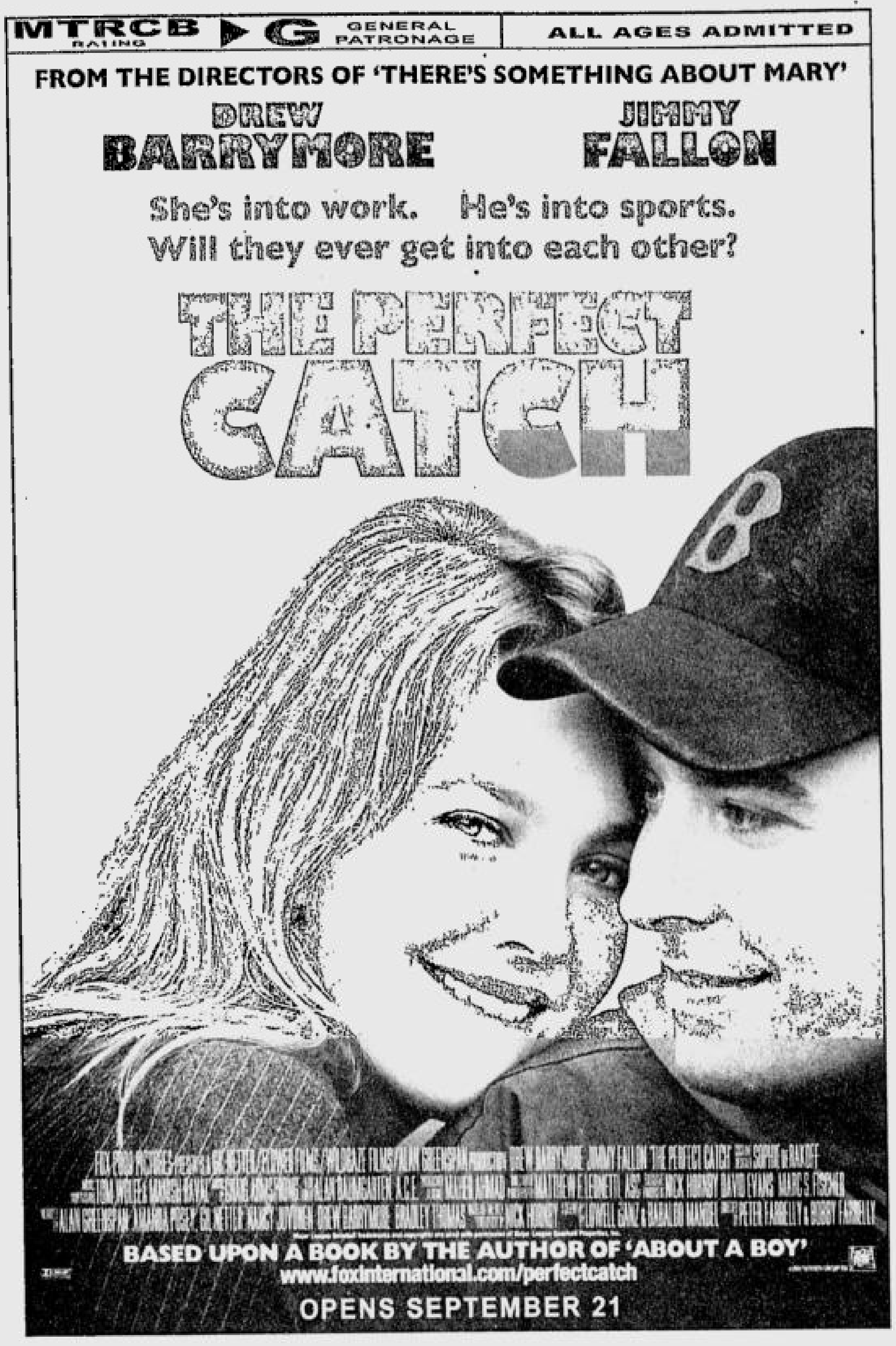
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 SKY HIGH
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVE STRUCK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 WWXXX.COM
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

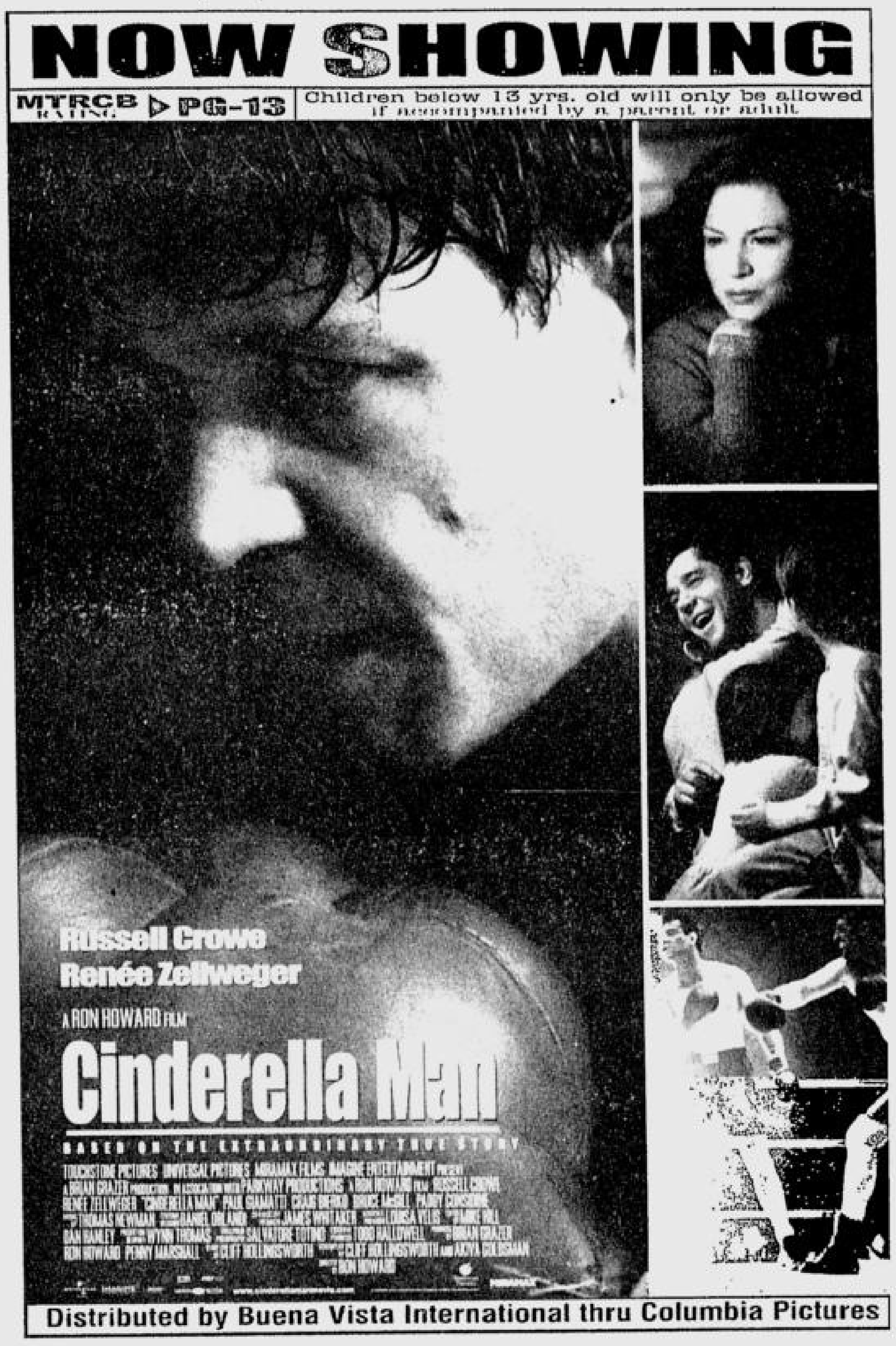
FROM THE DIRECTORS OF 'THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY'

DREW BARRYMORE JIMMY FALLON

She's into work. He's into sports.
Will they ever get into each other?

THE PERFECT CATCH

BASED UPON A BOOK BY THE AUTHOR OF 'ABOUT A BOY'
www.foxinternational.com/perfectcatch
OPENS SEPTEMBER 21



NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

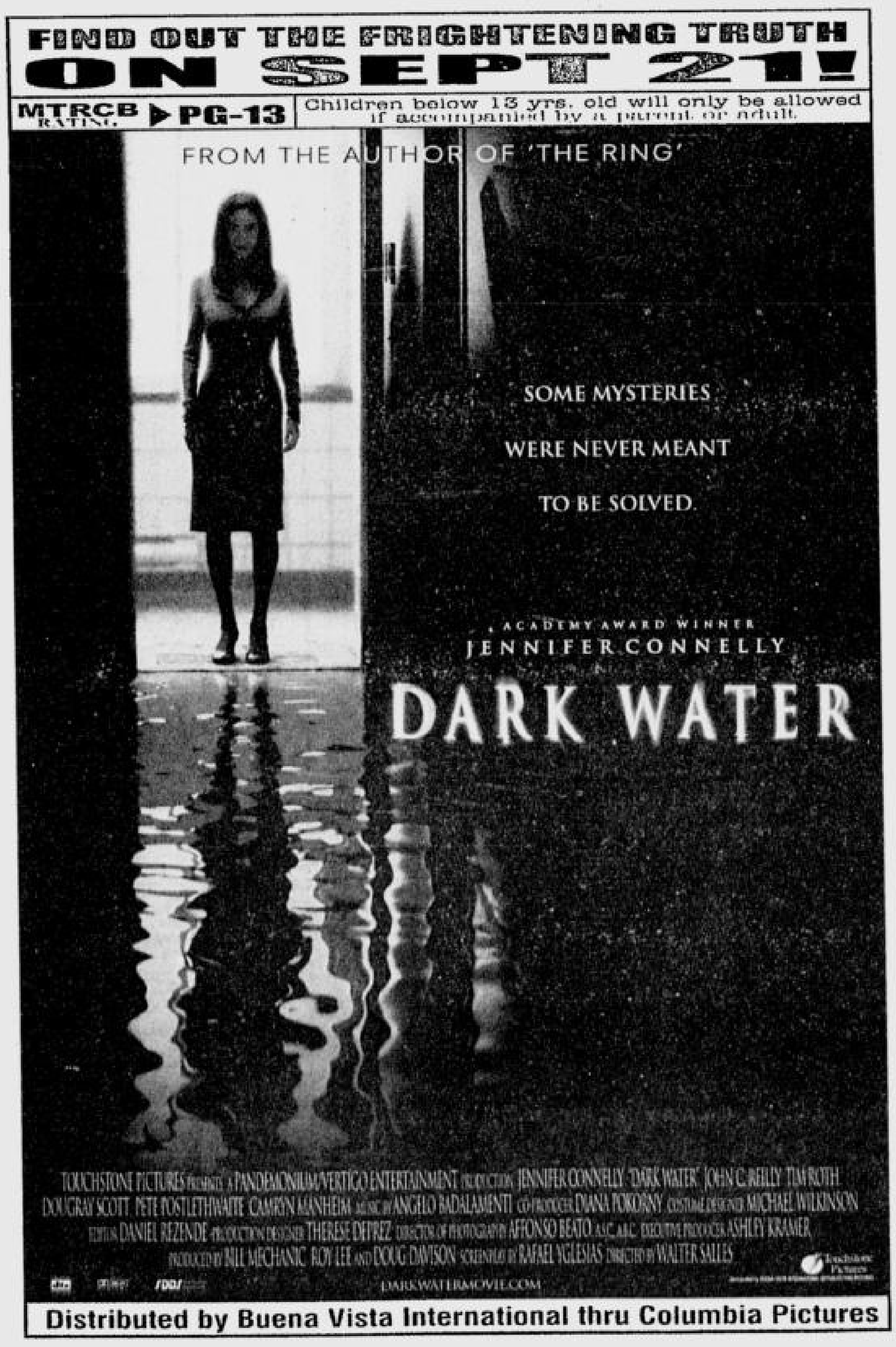
Russell Crowe
Renée Zellweger

A RON HOWARD FILM

Cinderella Man

BASED ON THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



FIND OUT THE FRIGHTENING TRUTH
ON SEPT 21!

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE AUTHOR OF 'THE RING'

SOME MYSTERIES
WERE NEVER MEANT
TO BE SOLVED.

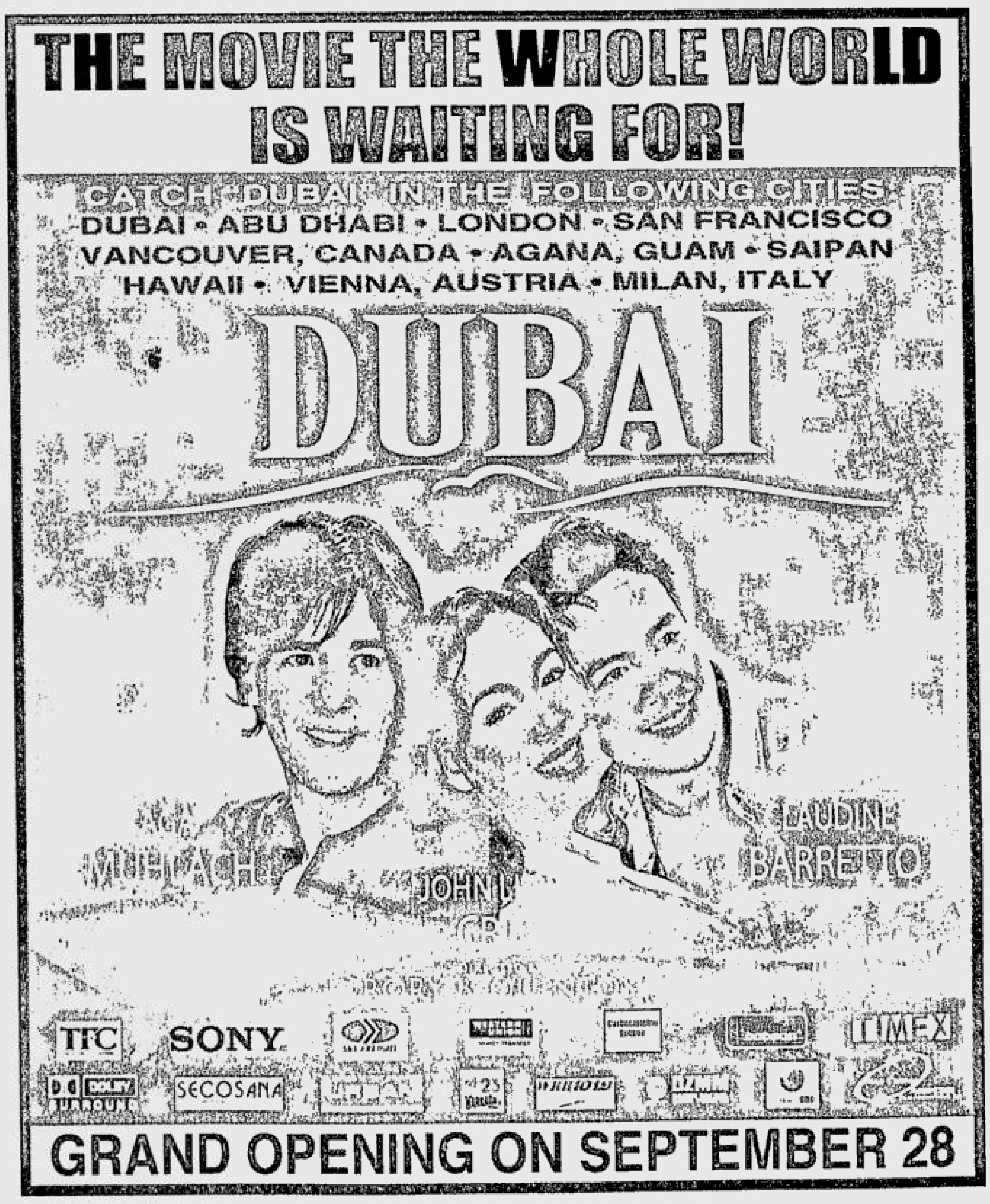
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
JENNIFER CONNELLY

DARK WATER

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS A PANDEMONIUM/VERTIGO ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION JENNIFER CONNELLY "DARK WATER" JOHN C. REILLY TIM ROTH DOUGRAY SCOTT PETE POSTLETHWAITE CAMRYN MANHEIM MUSIC BY ANGELO BADALAMENTI CO-PRODUCER DIANA POKORNY COSTUME DESIGNER MICHAEL WILKINSON EDITOR DANIEL REZENDE PRODUCTION DESIGNER THERESE DEPREZ DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AFFONSO BEATO A.S.C. A.B.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ASHLEY KRAMER PRODUCED BY BILL MECHANIC ROY LEE AND DOUG DAVISON SCREENPLAY BY RAFAEL YGLESIAS DIRECTED BY WALTER SALLES

DARKWATERMOVIE.COM

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



THE MOVIE THE WHOLE WORLD
IS WAITING FOR!

CATCH DUBAI IN THE FOLLOWING CITIES
DUBAI • ABU DHABI • LONDON • SAN FRANCISCO
VANCOUVER, CANADA • AGANA, GUAM • SAIPAN
HAWAII • VIENNA, AUSTRIA • MILAN, ITALY

DUBAI

AGA MUHLACH
JOHN L
CLAUDINE BARRETTO

TFC SONY TIMEX SECOSANA

GRAND OPENING ON SEPTEMBER 28

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | PARENTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO BRING VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.

2ND WEEK

FEAR TAKES FLIGHT
A FILM BY WES CRAVEN

RED EYE

RACHEL McADAMS CILLIAN MURPHY
www.redeye-themovie.com
Solar Entertainment Corporation

- *Surprises /D, H*
- *Weddings /E*
- *Home /F*

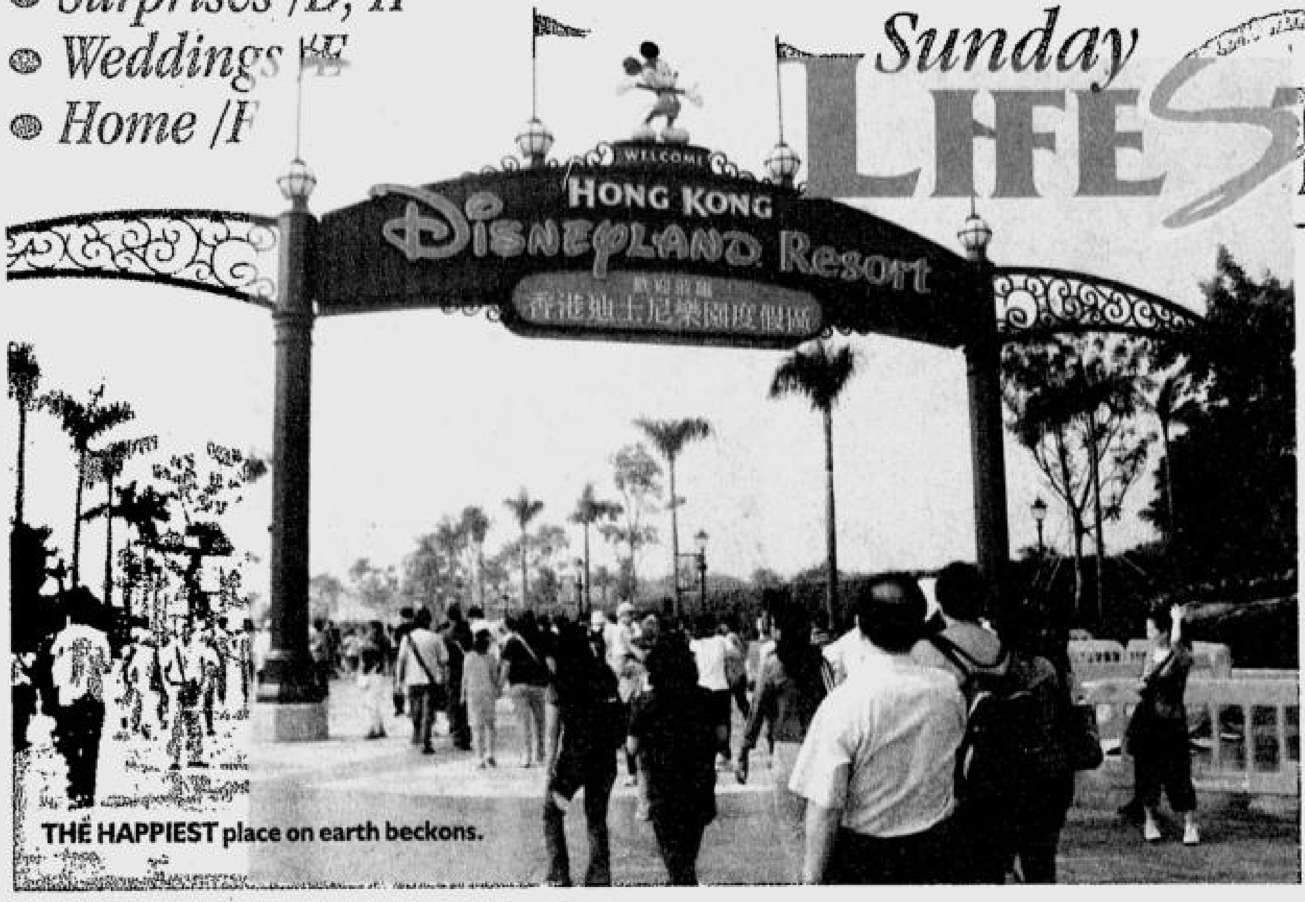
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

Text your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



THE HAPPIEST place on earth beckons.

A whole new world of *magic*

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 50 years can make! Half a century ago, Walt Disney opened the first Disneyland theme park in Anaheim, California, to the tune of $17 million. Just last Monday, the empire unveiled the newest Disneyland resort in Hong Kong, but though roughly the same in size as Anaheim's, this one on Lantau Island cost $3.5 billion.

A WHOLE/ C2

More "DIPS-Coveries!"

The Lady's Choice Create-A-Dip craze is spreading!

Recently, the foodies of Naga City joined the food tripping which Lady's Choice Mayonnaise has been promoting in major fiestas all over the country.

The Bicolanos, famous for their rich and spicy palate, were in their element during the Lady of Peñafrancia fiesta. The prominent personalities in Naga, led by City Mayor Jesse Robredo and his wife Atty. Leny Robredo, joined the "Create Your Own Dip" contest facilitated by Lorraine Timbol, Unilever Foods Activation Consultant, and Mark de Joya, Assistant Brand Manager for Lady's Choice.

Participants in the "Create Your Own Dip" contest included teams from DTI, City Hall and ABS-CBN, all of whom not only enjoyed the process of creating great dips out of Lady's Choice Mayonnaise, but the camaraderie shared with the company.

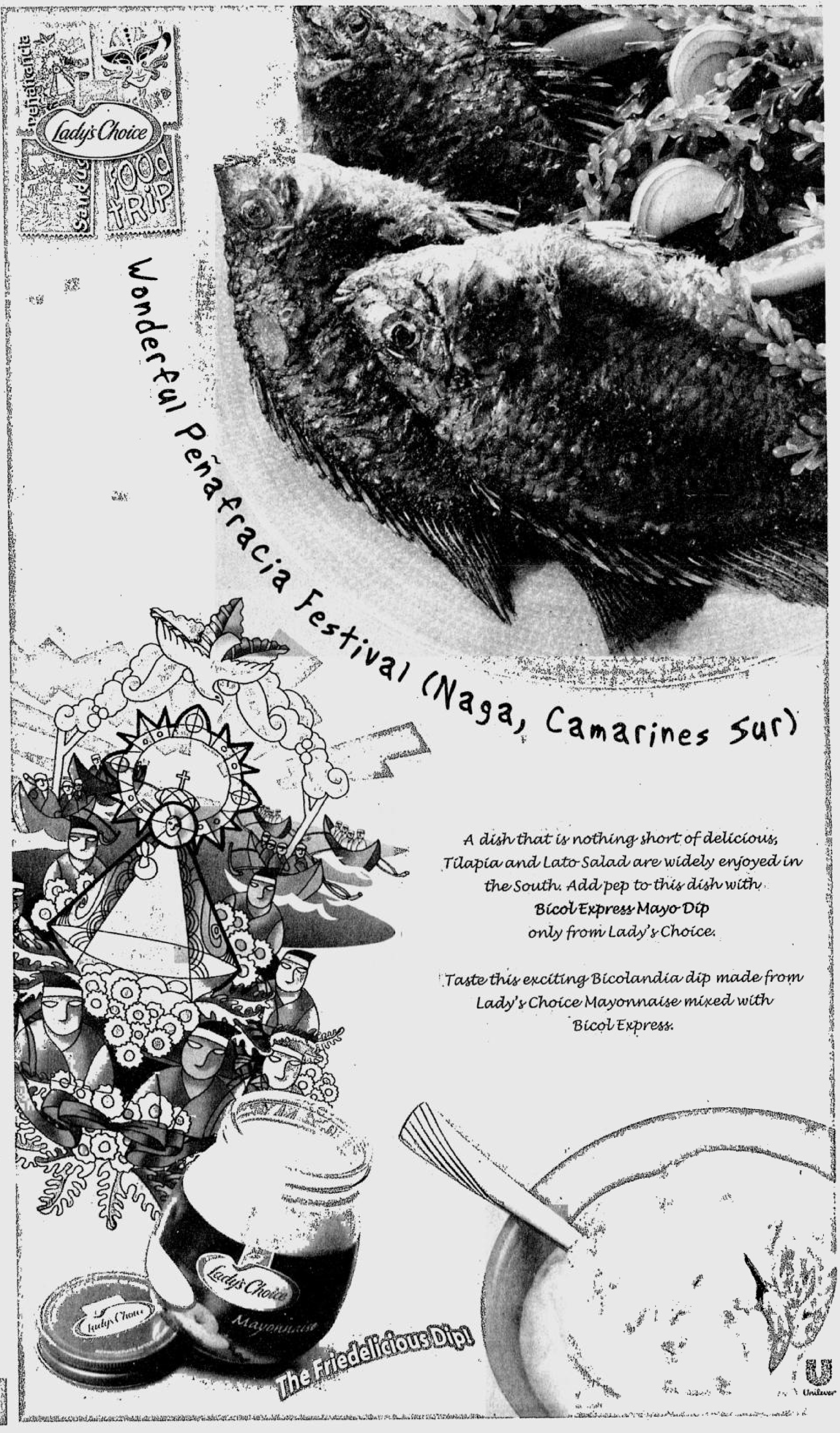
The verdict? A "Bicol Blast Express Mayo Dip" emerged as the popular vote. Inspired by the flavors of Bicol Express, the "Bicol Blast Express" was a scintillatingly stimulating dip creation with Lady's Choice Mayonnaise as base. Talk about a blend in styles - the fiery-hot bite of chili and coconut milk rounded off with the sweet-sour taste of Lady's Choice made for a mind-blowing dipping experience!

A savory rice dish was also concocted using adobo pork liempo, mixed with Lady's Choice Mayonnaise and garlic. Sounds absolutely tempting!

The sweet tooth of the Bicolano was tantalized with an unbelievably delicious Sweet Mazapan de Pili Brittle Mayo Dip which was a perfect complement to vegetable sticks.

Another unique "dips-covery" was the Lady's Choice "Pili Nut Mango Supreme Mayo Dip" which can go with whatever one's palate desires.

The Lady's Choice Food trip has, once again, shown how the creative juices of people who love to cook and those who love food can flow and create wonders with just a jar of Lady's Choice Mayonnaise.



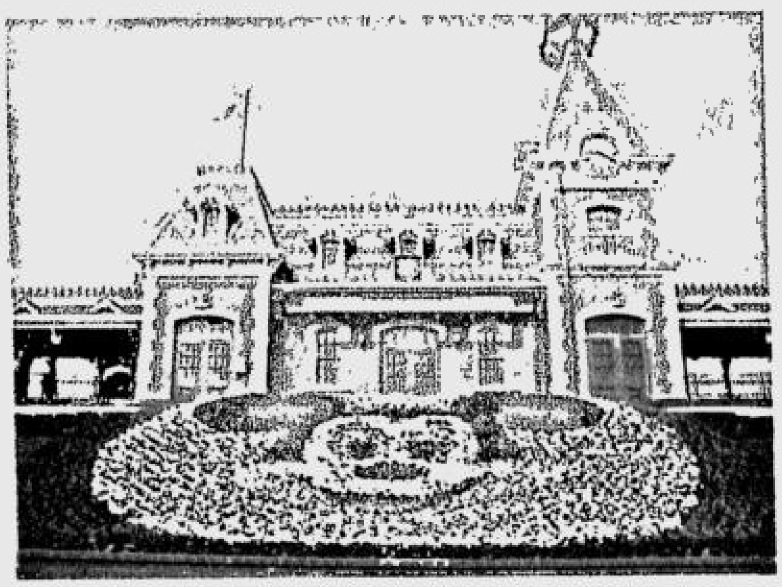
Wonderful Peñafrancia Festival (Naga, Camarines Sur)

*A dish that is nothing short of delicious,
Tilapia and Lato Salad are widely enjoyed in
the South. Add pep to this dish with*
Bicol Express Mayo Dip
only from Lady's Choice.

*Taste this exciting Bicolandia dip made from
Lady's Choice Mayonnaise mixed with
Bicol Express.*

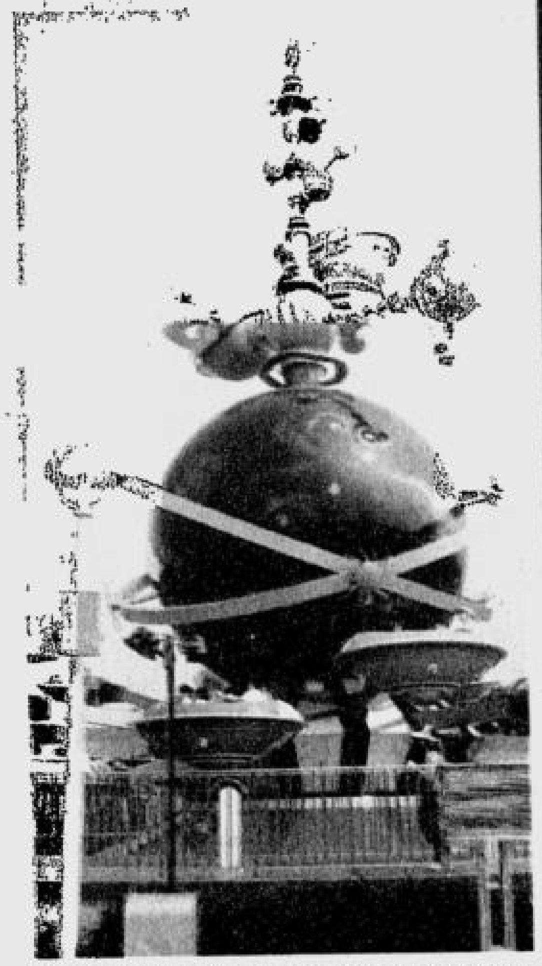
CHINESE kids pose with Alice and other denizens of Wonderland.

GOING for a spin in the colorful Mad Hatter Tea Cups arcade

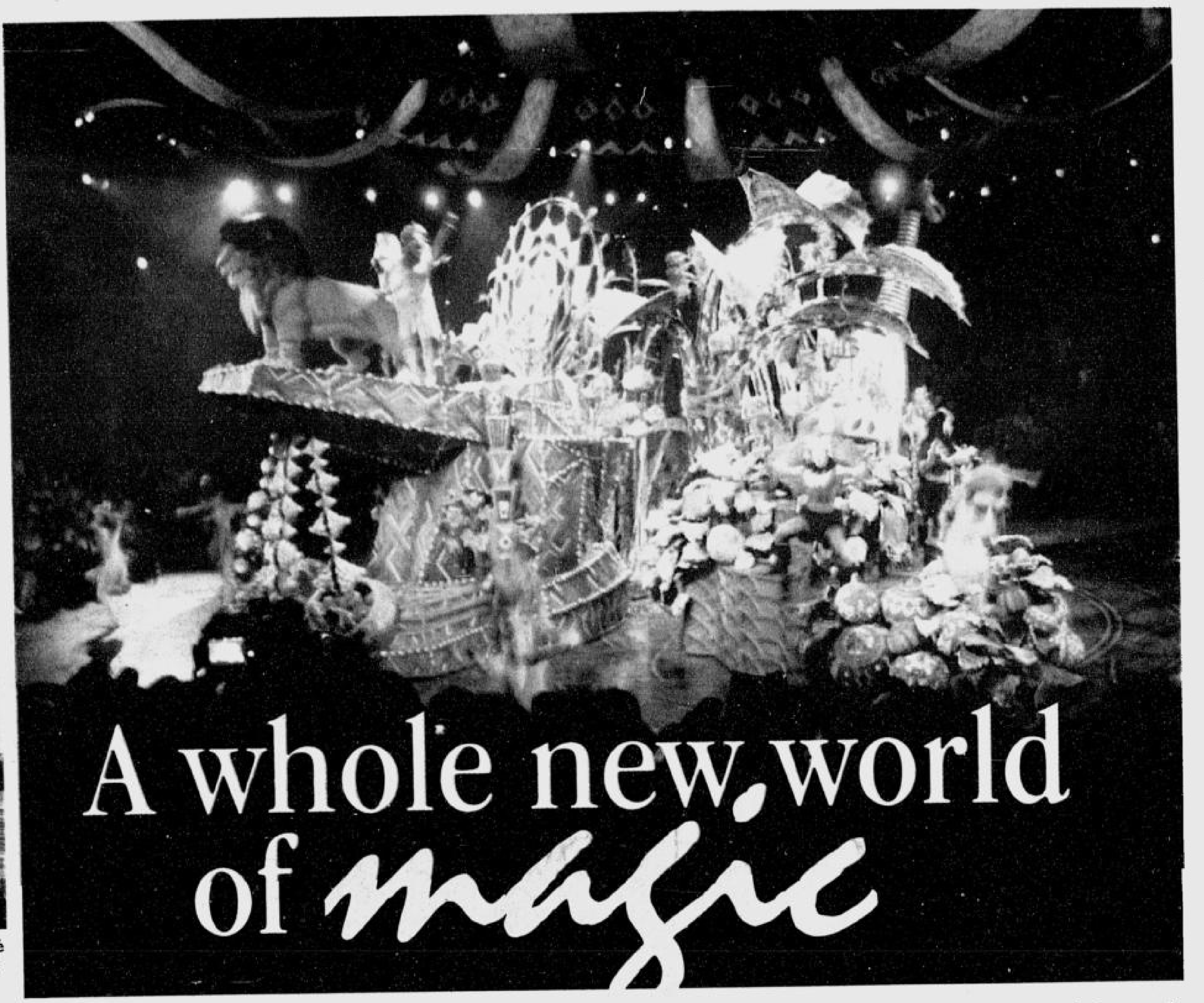


BREATHTAKING VIEW. The façade of the HK Disneyland Grand Railroad station, right by the entrance to the park

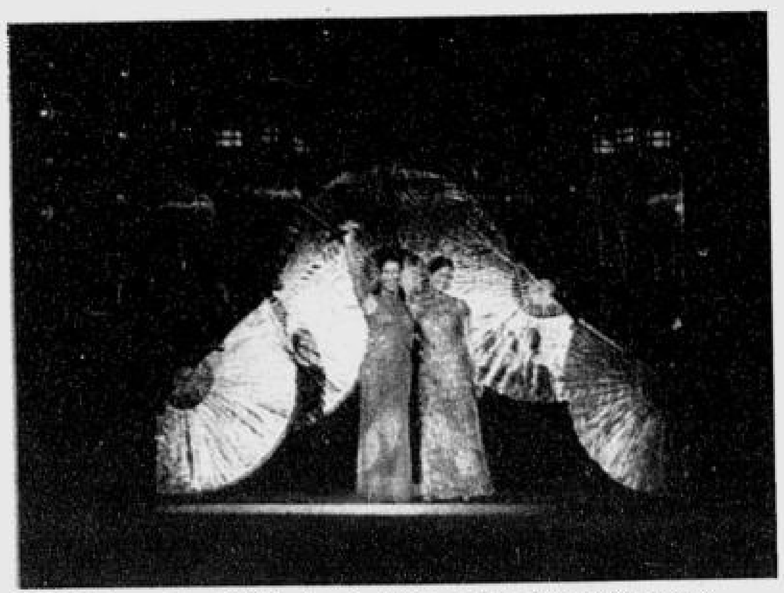
The vaunted Disney blend of stardust and merriment is spectacularly alive in the newly opened Hong Kong Disneyland



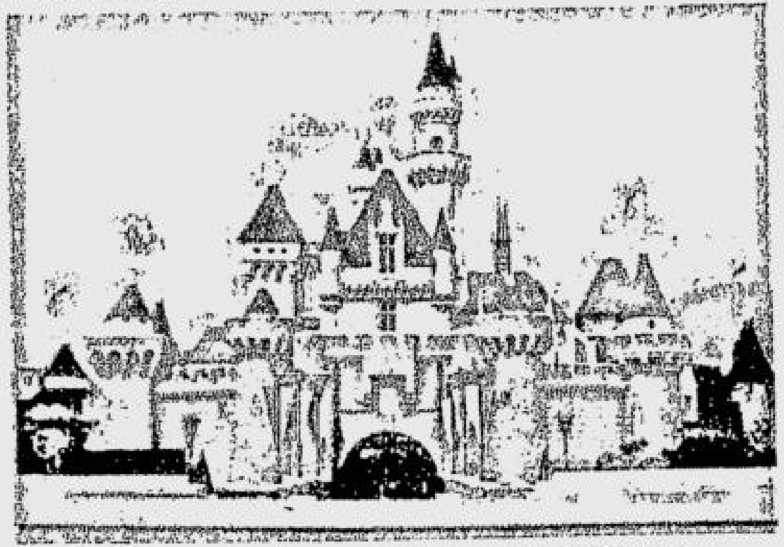
THE ORBITRON in Tomorrowland (top); the finale of the spectacular "Festival of the Lion King" in Adventureland (right)



A whole new world of magic



LEA Salonga sings "Reflection" with Coco Lee during the park's grand opening, their images projected on a giant screen.



SLEEPING Beauty Castle, now with HK mountains as backdrop

FRONT view of the elegant, Victorian-inspired Disneyland Hotel

From page C1

But for the staggering difference in dollars, the vaunted Disney blend of magic, fairy dust and merriment is unchanged. Well, not really unchanged because now the kingdom is lavishly enhanced by advances in design, technology and sheer human imagination.

Hong Kong Disneyland is spanking-new, yet it remains quintessentially retro—a leap back to an indeterminate, more carefree time when Sleeping Beauty pined in her castle and Mickey Mouse reigned as king of the hill. And they still do.

In Hong Kong, as in other Disney parks in California, Florida, Tokyo and Paris, these characters are alive, ageless, tangible. They are everywhere in the park, coaxing squeals out of kids and turning jaded grown-ups into jelly with their charms.

This is the magic of Disneyland. Everything in it is a show, a pageant, a rhapsody to happiness and sunburst fun. Everyone working in a Disneyland park is called a cast member, because all of them are in the business of telling stories and instilling joy in their audiences. Every day is a performance, and the entire Disney theme park is their stage.

Smallest park

And what a stage it is. The biggest Disney resort, in Orlando, Florida, has 20,000 hotel rooms and 14 parks. HK Disneyland is the smallest, but you wouldn't know it from the figures: 1,000 hotel rooms, 5,000 cast members (about 500 of them Filipinos in various capacities), six years of construction work, an entire 126-ha island remade into a giant playground (with pronounced feng shui elements, one of many nods to Chinese culture), and some 5.6 million guests expected in its first year.

This enchanted hideaway is merely 10 minutes away from the international airport, and less than 30 minutes by train, ferry or motorway from downtown Hong Kong. After a transforming ride from the hurly-burly world of the city to the sparkling gates of the Magic Kingdom, the adventure officially begins with a breathtaking sight: the grand station of the HK Disneyland Railroad looming over the entrance.

Passing through the entrances on either side of the station brings visitors to Main Street, USA, an evocative re-creation of the 1920s neighborhood shops and corner attractions that Walt Disney himself grew up in.

The architecture on either side of Main Street is awash in pastel colors, with quaint, bygone signages such as "Apothecary" or "Curiosities." Yet inside these stores are a virtual armada of Disney merchandise ready to be snapped up, from Minnie Mouse mooncakes to Goofy trinkets.

Soaring towers

At the end of Main Street is Sleeping Beauty Castle, its soaring Bavarian-inspired towers recognizable worldwide as the emblem of all Walt Disney films.

But HK Disneyland offers a twist to the old landmark. Unlike those in Anaheim and other Disney parks, the castle offers mountainous peaks for a background, lending it an authentically majestic fairy-tale feel.

Three elaborate theme "lands" complement Main Street and Sleeping Beauty Castle, all of them so designed as to block out any vestiges of the outside world and immerse visitors thoroughly in the unique geography of the place.

Once inside Adventureland's jungle interiors, for instance, the towering turrets of Sleeping Beauty Castle or the futuristic spires of Space Mountain are nowhere to be seen, though they are only some distance away.

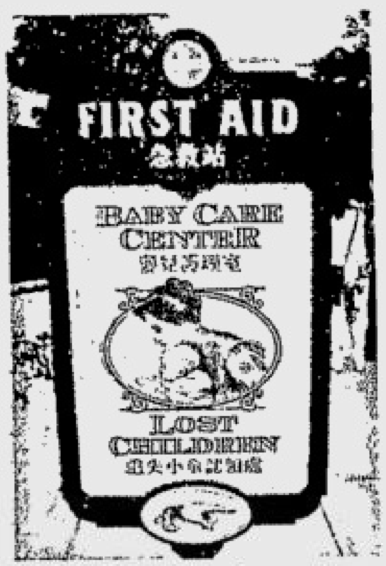
Here, the mystery and thrill of safari adventure hold sway, enhanced by awesome sights such as Tarzan's tree house in the middle of an emerald river, Lucky the Dinosaur (a full-size animatronic beast lumbering down the alleys, complete with thundering hooves and braying sounds), and the "Festival of the Lion King," a dazzling, 45-minute Broadway-style show held several times a day in the 2,250-seat Theater in the Wild.

Smash treat

Over at Fantasyland, a smash treat is Mickey's PhilharMagic, a 3-D experience that will find you picking your jaw off the floor afterward. Inside a music hall, an enormous Imax-size screen wraps itself around you, and you enter a world where Disney characters are as real as your fidgety seatmate.

When Donald Duck splashes around in a puddle, you get wet. When he thrusts an apple pie forward, its yummy scent wafts everywhere. But when it's suddenly flambéd, the burning smell stings your nose. Ariel, too, of "The Little

A WHOLE/ C4



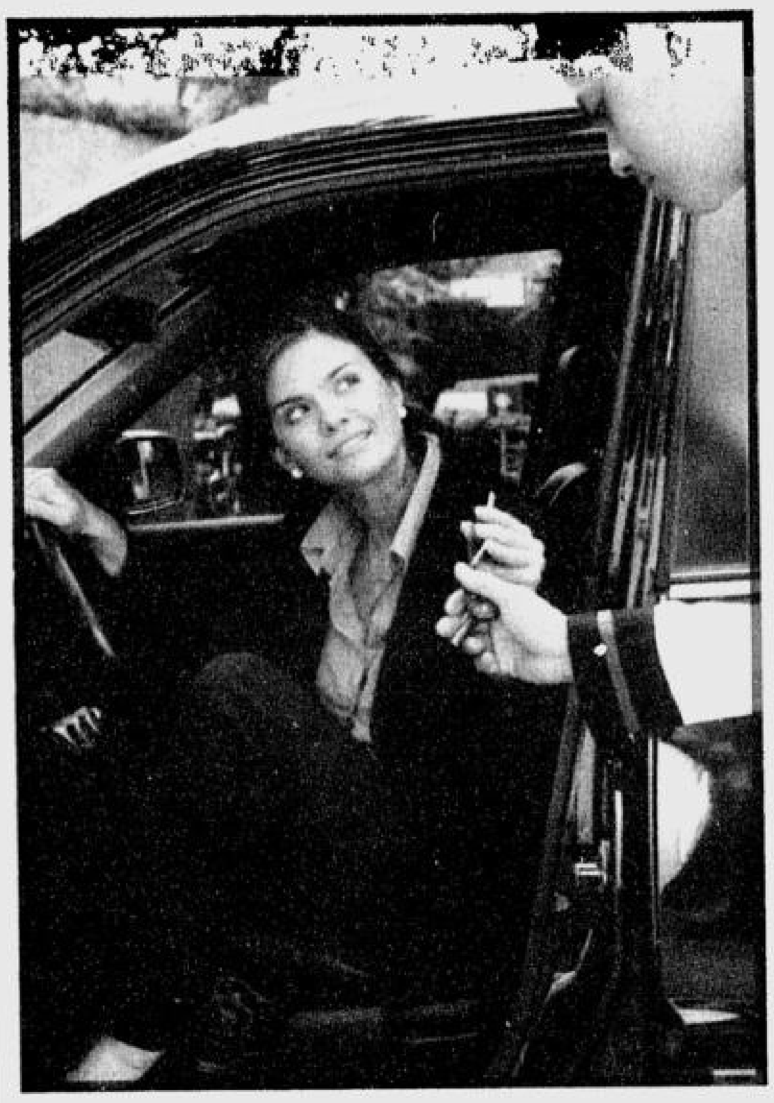
YES, they do think of everything.

TARZAN'S Treehouse

DAILY afternoon parade down Main Street, USA

The Podium experience is pure bliss!

Located at the heart of the bustling Ortigas Center, this upscale mall has redefined the standards of shopping since it opened in late 2002. Its classy interiors - the sleek flooring, the chrome columns, and the large skylight create a contemporary ambience found in commercial complexes all over the world. It has over 150 specialty stores and restaurants, with two state-of- the-art cinemas that inject new concepts to shopping, dining, or recreation.



The Podium's world class interiors, upmarket shops and restaurants, and

superb service merge together to bring forth another luxury rarely found in malls- the luxury of shopping, dining and having fun at a leisurely pace. Time, after all, is a valuable currency in a world where multi-tasking, non-stop deadlines, and stress factors rule. And now is the best time to rediscover the mall - old favorites and new hotspots - at your own unhurried pace, of course.

Take time out to check the fab new finds in its newly opened international boutiques - the UK's Topman/ Topshop/ Dorothy Perkins, and Singapore's cult label BYSI; or go sole searching at Traffic, the footwear expert.

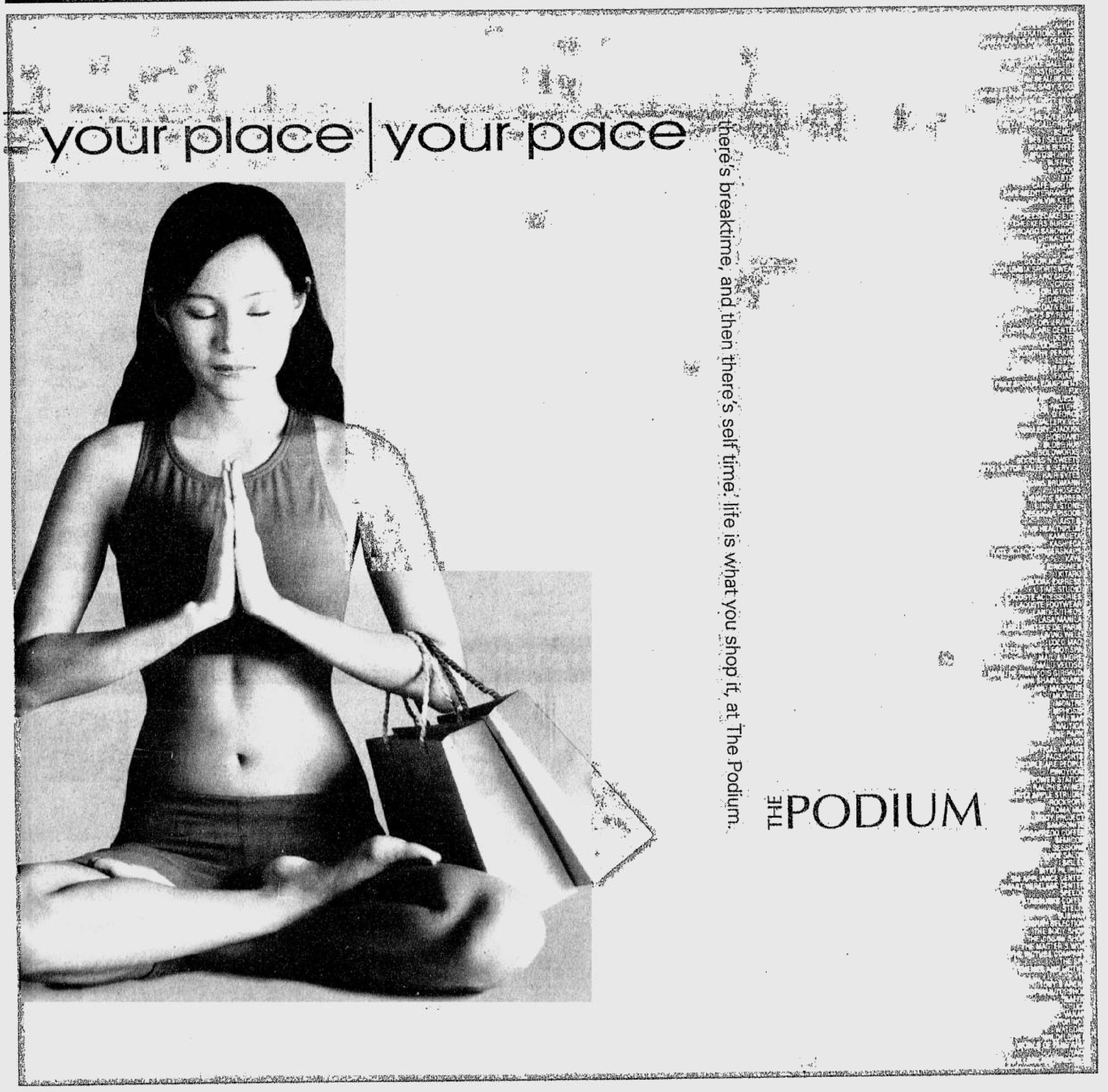
There's nothing like unwinding with great food and good company at the mall's new restos - Crustasia, with its delightful seafood specialties, and Terry's Selection, with its marvelous Spanish cuisine and amazing wine selection. Or chilling out over Segafredo's authentic Italian pizza, pasta and coffee selections; savoring Filipino popular cuisine at Lasa Manila; and indulging in melt-in-your-mouth Go Nuts Donuts, and to-die-for Luscious desserts.

Discover why the mall has become an oasis for culture and the arts with its world class events - performances by international artists, exhibits that highlight cultural exchanges, and critically acclaimed film festivals.

More reasons to pamper your self at The Podium: luxurious beauty treats and services at the soon-to-open The Spa and the Belo Medical Group. Or rediscover new looks for old favorites - Banana Leaf Curry House, Bench Kashieca Concept Store, and the Shoe Salon.

Not to be missed are The Podium's exclusive personalized services - valet parking, concierge and wi-fi connection - which complete the ultimate shopping experience. Celebrate the good life at The Podium - your place, your pace.

ADVT


your place | your pace
there's breaktime, and then there's self time. life is what you shop it, at The Podium.
THE PODIUM

A whole new world of magic

From page C2

Mermaid," gets to fling her thingamabobs inches away from your face, while Peter Pan and Tinkerbell take you on a windy flight across a starry London skyline.

Fantasyland also has the Storybook Theater where "The Golden Mickeys" plays several times a day. It's a 30-minute live show that celebrates Disney's best-loved films, songs and characters, and most of the lead parts are played (superbly) by Pinoy performers.

Tomorrowland's star destination remains Space Mountain, a classic interplanetary ride now updated with diverting "re-entry" effects. Cheek by jowl with it are new sights such as the Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters, featuring "Toy Story's" second most famous character.

Diverse choices

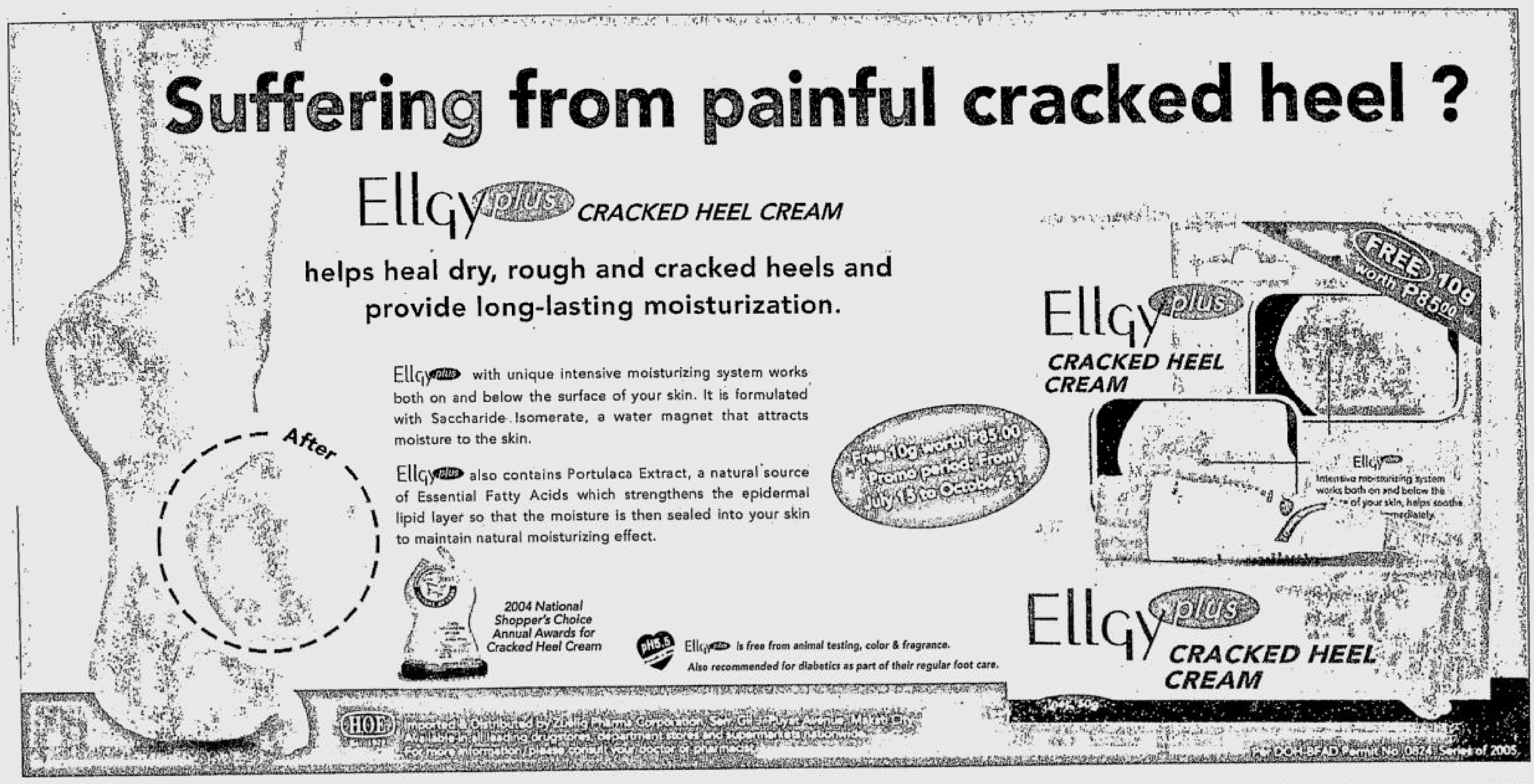
Families spending their day in the park and enjoying these attractions have a choice of eight restaurants offering Chinese, Japanese or Western cuisine, nine souvenir shops, and comprehensive guest service facilities such as first aid, baby care, currency exchange and language translation.

HK Disneyland's shows are in English and Chinese, and most cast members are fluent in both languages.

Tickets are HK$295 for adults, HK$210 for children, and HK$170 for seniors on weekdays. On weekends and peak days such as holidays, that rises to HK$350 for adults, HK$250 for kids and HK$200 for senior citizens (HK$1 is about P7).

Obviously, going to Disneyland isn't cheap. But as with magic and enthrallment, the smiles it elicits from kids and adults alike bear no price tags—one more thing that hasn't changed in 50 years.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph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PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

BIBETH ORTEZA

Laughter is bigger than the Big C

SCRIPTWRITER Bibeth Orteza is her own Exhibit A to her claim that one doesn't lose one's sense of humor just because one has cancer. She will present evidence that laughter is contagious when she and fellow breast cancer patients get together on Sept. 25 for "Silver Linings" a forum on breast cancer organized by I Can Serve Foundation.

PLAYTIME

By the Staff

Diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2004, Bibeth regards her sisters in the foundation as a circle of friends that provides bonus moral, spiritual and physical care. She admits she cannot complain about the love and attention from her husband, the film director Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, their children and her siblings, but there is another level of bonding that happens when she's with fellow cancer survivors.

Bibeth was hired by the KBS Public Affairs department right after college because "*mukha akong sanggano* who would be willing to stay in the studio all night" at a time of Marcos-imposed curfew.

The studio bosses were right. Bibeth thought nothing of staying overnight in the studios. That was how she came upon an extra source of income.

She remembers playing the role of a doctor one time too many. Her line in the vernacular would always be "There's nothing more we can do for the patient." So resigned, so bereft of hope.

That is not how Bibeth sounds today, as you will find out in this Playtime. Taking her cue from a prayer she learned from the cancer sisterhood, Bibeth has transformed her experience with the Big C into a testimony that's often funny and always hopeful.

How did you find out about your cancer? Why did you go for a checkup in the first place?

I didn't feel a lump but I felt heavy. I was really feeling heavy on my right chest. Like, in bed, I would turn on my left, and the right breast would take its time following. *Lahat na ng bahagi ng katawan ko andito sa kaliwa tapos yung kanan na* breast *parang naka*-slow motion siya. I found out on the Thursday before the Ramadan.

Was there pain?

None. And when I went for the chemo, *ang nakita nila* immediately *hindi yung* lump sa breast but the lymph node. There was a mass already in the *kilikili*, *kasi* what happened was the mass, *yung aking* lump, grew *dito malapit sa* rib cage. In the mammogram, *walang nakikita*. I was looking for my doctor but he was out of the country. So I called up Kitchie Benedicto and told her I had a lump. What do I do? She said "Get in your car, go to Makati Med and, by the time you get there, a [medical] team will be ready." *Sabi nya* to look for her nephew-in-law, Nicky Fores, who is a gastro enterologist. By the time I got there, I already had a surgeon, *si* Jennifer Ang. My oncologist, Barbara Marquez Domingo, turned out to be a classmate of Carlitos in Ateneo. And guess who their teacher was—GMA! (Laughs)

> **How does it feel to have part of your body removed?**
> I've always wanted to be flat-chested. (Laughter) 'Di nga, kasi' when you're big you don't like it; when you're flat you don't like it either

Did you feel any pain?

Wala din. And I think what happened was, August of that year I quit smoking... then I took up boxing as a sport. My body got relatively healthy. That's when the heaviness surfaced. That's when I felt something wrong. Otherwise, I was sprite and nimble. I was taking long walks around the village. I was really feeling good... When I found out I had the lump, the two people I called up were Kitchie Benedicto and Letty [Magsanoc] because I wanted to speak to Kara Magsanoc.

But Letty Magsanoc, being Letty Magsanoc, got my number wrong. So it took Kara the whole day to get in touch with me. And then, Thursday *ng gabi*, *alam ko* birthday *ni* Mayor Binay, *sabi ng* mother-in-law *ko*, *"Hindi ka ba pupunta?" Sabi ko masama pakiramdam ko*. I didn't want to tell her on the phone. *Sabi nya*, *"Hindi*, Bibeth *sabihin mo ang dahilan. Ayoko ng kausap na ganyan. Sabihin mo sa 'kin nang deretso! May usapan tayo magkikita tayo sa* birthday *ni* Mayor Binay."

So I said, "Mommy, *may* lump *ako sa suso*. And it doesn't look good." She didn't cry, but she was very, very sad.

Before this, I was exposed to diabetes. At that time *parang* borderline *pa lang ako*. My mom died of complications from diabetes, her leg was amputated. I never really thought *na ang ia*-amputate *sa akin ay suso*.

So Nov. 16, Ramadan, I was operated on. My doctor was Jennifer Ang and immediately they found out it was cancer. When I was with the surgeon, I said, "Tell me the truth, you think this is cancer? If it's cancer, tell me right now. *Ayoko yung kakausapin pa asawa ko*."

What went through your head?

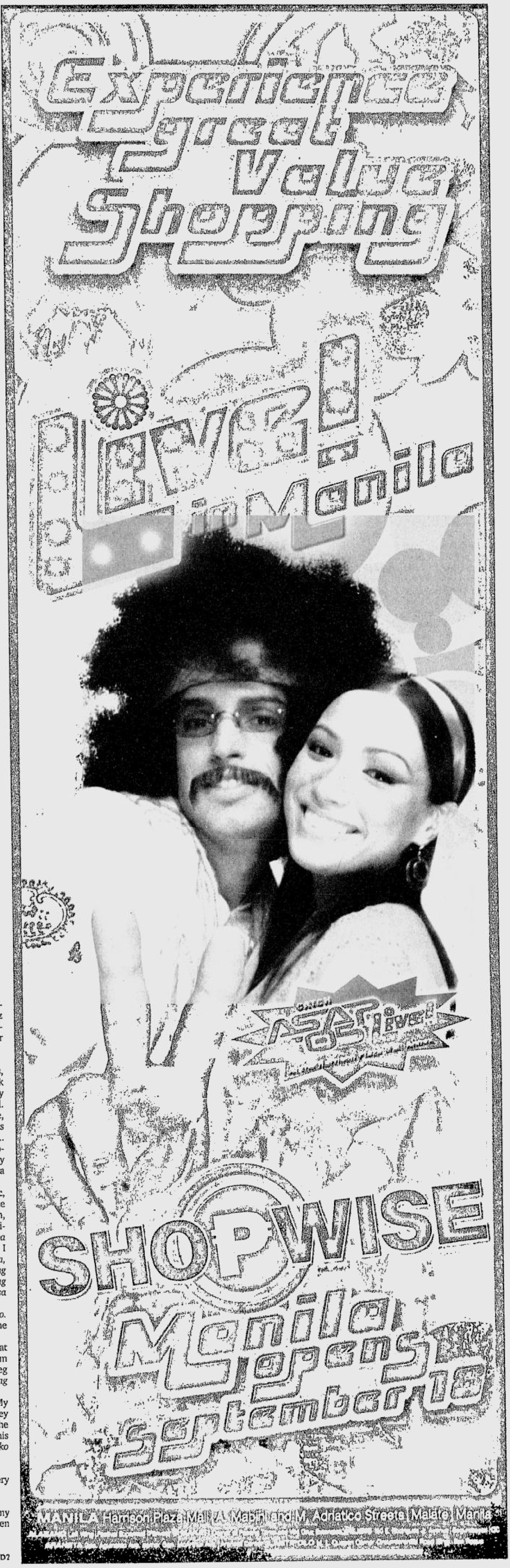
Up to this day, I'm amazed that I was very calm.

Who was with you?

My mother-in-law, Carlitos, my sister, my other brother Bongbet and his wife, and then Gina Alajar, Raquel Villavicencio...

Full force!

LAUGHTER D2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Laughter is bigger than the Big C

From page D1

Madeleine Nicolas, *mga* friends *ko* since way back. *Si* Raquel, *may* sister *siya na namatay* of breast cancer. She was there basically to hold my hand. We had prayers.

I've never gone through a moment na I would ask, "Lord, why me?" What really surprised me was the peace with which I accepted it. I've been really blessed with so many things in life, *parang hindi ko magawang ipagtampo kahit itong sakit na ito.*

I'm the eldest in a family of seven. My father was a lay minister of the Protestant Church, my mother an ordinary housewife. Through *sama-samang* blessing *ng Diyos, swerte* and everything, I helped send my siblings to school. "*Nung una*, that was my great pride. Then, when I had cancer, it's the other way around *pala*. You can only give material things but when your siblings return it in terms of love and affection and they're totally there for you, *kahit na napag-aral mo sila*, that's nothing.

I remember my doctor on the second day of the operation said, "*Alam mo*, Bibeth, coming here, *isip ako nang isip ano kayang sasabihin ko kay* Bibeth." Usually *daw, mga* surgeons *pagka*-cancer, *iniisip nila yung bibigyan nila ng* words of wisdom. *Nabangga ang kotse niya kakaisip niya kung anong sasabihin nya sa akin!* She realized that was the answer. *Sinabi nya sa akin*, "You know, Bibeth, it came to me that we all have to go through that door. *Hindi natin alam kung kailan at papaano. Posible pa palang nauna ako sa'yo.*"

One of the first texts [I got] after [the surgery] was from a good friend of mine, Louie Camino (the late INQUIRER entertainment editor). He said, "*Gusto ko* either you write about this or you do Playtime. Can you be funny about this?" *Sabi ko*, so long as you're there. *Sabi nya, "You're already a survivor."*

The week before he entered the hospital, *nag-usap kami*, we made a date. I was going to treat him to lunch at Gaudi's, and I was going to take him to my acupuncturist. But that was the week after my first chemotherapy. *Hindi ko alam 'pag* chemo *pala ang daming bawal, ang baba kasi ng* immunity *mo. Pero namalengke ako, naganak ako sa binyag, sumali ako sa* "Eat Bulaga," *ang dami kong pinuntahan*. I wasn't feeling bad.

Aba, eh, ang Mr. Camino *ang tagal dumating... at nag*chi-chill *na ako*. So *tumawag ako sa* onco... *Sabi niya* I should go to the ER of Makati Med right away. So *punta ako sa ospital*, and that was the last time I had contact with Louie.

Why did you go through chemo?

My doctors advised it. Carlitos was for it. Everybody was, and I was ready.

Did you have an option? Or was it chemo or nothing?

The program for me was chemo *tapos* radiation.

Which hurts more, chemo or radiation?

Chemo. They would give you steroids before that. So my blood sugar went really up. But because of the steroids. I'd be fine for 72 hours. After that, *yung buong bunganga mo* will have white sores, water tastes metallic and you can't eat anything.

Do you throw up?

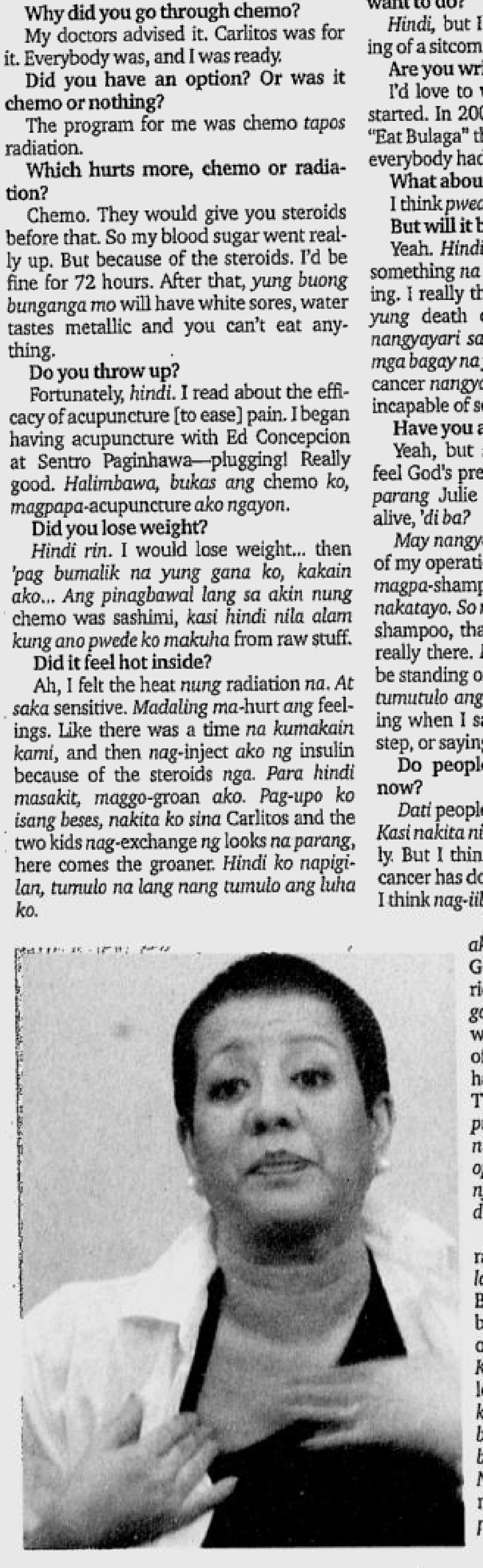
Fortunately, *hindi*. I read about the efficacy of acupuncture [to ease] pain. I began having acupuncture with Ed Concepcion at Sentro Paginhawa—plugging! Really good. *Halimbawa, bukas ang* chemo *ko, magpapa*-acupuncture *ako ngayon*.

Did you lose weight?

Hindi rin. I would lose weight... then *'pag bumalik na yung gana ko, kakain ako... Ang pinagbawal lang sa akin nung* chemo was sashimi, *kasi hindi nila alam kung ano pwede ko makuha* from raw stuff.

Did it feel hot inside?

Ah, I felt the heat *nung* radiation *na. At saka* sensitive. *Madaling ma*-hurt *ang* feelings. Like there was a time *na kumakain kami*, and then *nag*-inject *ako ng* insulin because of the steroids *nga. Para hindi masakit, maggo*-groan *ako. Pag-upo ko isang beses, nakita ko sina* Carlitos and the two kids *nag*-exchange *ng* looks *na parang*, here comes the groaner. *Hindi ko napigilan, tumulo na lang nang tumulo ang luha ko.*



How is your family taking this?

Sabi nila they're taking the cue from me.

When did you tell the kids?

Nung una pinag-uusapan namin ni Carlitos when we're going to tell the kids, *kung anong* stage. *Pero naisip namin, baka mabasa nila sa ibang dyaryo, mapanood nila sa* TV.. We wanted the truth to come from us. *Yung anak kong lalaki sabi*, "Chemotherapy will heal you, Mama, 'cause the word mother is in chemotherapy." In a way, the cancer helped them, I think, because they got to be more independent.

The girl is 16 and the boy is 15. They wrote me such lovely letters for Mother's Day. *Yun talaga, iyak ako nang iyak nun.* They like writing things for Mother's Day... so *nung* cancer *na, hindi sila takot*.

What about Carlitos?

He's been really good and great to have. *Nung nalaman ko na tatanggalin yung* breast *ko, hindi ko naisip na, ay naku, baka ipagpalit na niya ko sa iba.* I've always been busty—38DD. *Ngayon isa na lang*, 38D! (Laughter) *Pero andiyan pa rin siya.*

How does it feel to have part of your body removed?

I've always wanted to be flat-chested. (Laughter) *'Di nga, kasi* when you're big you don't like it; when you're flat you don't like it either.

So you didn't miss it?

No. *Sabi ng* surgeon *ko, sabi daw ng isa sa kanyang mga residente parang meron daw akong* difficulty accepting. *Kasi nung tinanggal nila, sabi ko*, Wow, *ang ganda*, flat. *Akala ko kasi tatanggalin yung dalawa. Iniisip ko, uy, makakapagsuot na ako ng* sleeveless blouse... *Pero yun pala, hindi tatanggalin yung isa.*

Did you worry about how you looked when you lost your hair? Or was it no problem since you always wore your hair short?

Actually, *bumili ako ng* wig *sa* Amerika. Okay *naman yung* wig but it really, really felt like I was wearing Annabelle Rama's hair! (Laughter) *Yung pangalawang nabili ko, umurong yung* garter around the wig... Afterwards, *sabi ko hindi na lang ako magwi*-wig. I went around *kalbo*.

Is there a sense of urgency now to do things?

Hindi naman. I just take it one day at a time. You know what, I said *na gusto ko maging* normal *naman yung buhay ko. Yung pwede pa rin ako mag*-rally, *pwede ako mag-ganyan.*

You didn't make a list of things you want to do?

Hindi, but I'm just really, really dreaming of a sitcom about cancer patients.

Are you writing a script?

I'd love to write a script. But I haven't started. In 2004, I wrote and directed for "Eat Bulaga" the Holy Week episode where everybody had cancer.

What about a movie?

I think *pwede*.

But will it be a happy movie?

Yeah. *Hindi ako makatingin sa sakit* as something *na talagang* serious *at* depressing. I really think *na ang nakaka*-depress, *yung* death of the film industry, *yung nangyayari sa* country *ngayon. Kasi yung mga bagay na yun pwedeng pigilan eh. Yung* cancer *nangyayari yun kasi yung* DNA *mo* incapable of self-repair.

Have you always had faith in God?

Yeah, but still, cinematic. *Kumbaga*, I feel God's presence on top of a mountain, *parang* Julie Andrews and the hills are alive, *'di ba?*

May nangyari sa akin on the second day of my operation. *Sabi ko sa* nurse *ayokong magpa*-shampoo *nang nakahiga, gusto ko nakatayo. So nung nakatayo na ako at sina*-shampoo, that's when I felt that God was really there. *Kasi ang saya-saya ko* just to be standing on my feet. *Talagang ang saya, tumutulo ang luha ko... Parang* same feeling when I saw my kids taking their first step, or saying their first word.

Do people think differently of you now?

Dati people would say, "*Ang tapang mo.*" *Kasi nakita nila ako sa kung saan-saang* rally. But I think, when I [talk] about what cancer has done to me and my experience, I think *nag-iiba yung kanilang* perception.

Pero minsan nga nahihiya ako kasi, like one time I felt that God was there with me, at Glorietta. *Naghahanap ako ng gagawa ng baterya ng relo ko*. A woman approached me in one of the *eskenita*. She held my hand and said, "I saw you on TV. *Meron din akong* cyst *na pinagpabukas-bukas ko, pero nung narinig kita*, next week *na operasyon ko.*" *Hawak-hawak nya kamay ko tapos umiiyak din ako.*

Sometimes I feel embarrassed because *akala nila ako lang mag-isa yung matapang*. But I have to say this: I'm only brave because I really feel I owe it to others who are braver. *Kasi* it's really, really bad for a lot of other people. *Saan nila kukunin yung perang pambayad? ...[Ako] merong pambayad... eh papaano yung wala? Nagpapa*-chemo *ako*, in the next cubicle *yung mag-asawa pinaplano nila kung pababawasan na lang nila yung* dosage or *hindi na lang sila sisipot dun sa* last two. *Ang* stressful *n'on.*

Ako iniisip ko yung I would go to the chemo, air-conditioned *yung kotse mo, hinahatid ka, uwi ka sa bahay, yung pagkain mo* oatmeal *nga lang, pero yung iba walang pagkain eh. May makain man sila, sila rin magluluto, sila rin mamamalengke, sila rin maghuhugas ng plato. Ako, may naghuhugas ng plato, may naglalaba ng damit ko. Mas mahirap pa rin yung kalagayan nila. Parang, anong karapatan ko na sumama ang loob at magalit? Mas hirap yung ibang tao.*

Hindi ka na nagre-raise ng funds?

Hindi. Pero one of the things that really, really helped me... [made me] feel [I was] not going through this alone, was *yung* I Can Serve Foundation *ni* Kara [Magsanoc-Alikpala]. *Ang dami na rin naming mga* moments together. *Biglang kasama mo sila. 'Di ba* friendship develops because you've been neighbors for a long time, you went to the same school, or your children go to the same school? *Dito 'pag na*-meet *mo yung mga* sisters *mo sa* I Can Serve, *alam mo kaagad na ang* bonding *nyo* special. You went through the same experiences together—chemo, radiation. *Yung mga* chemo *pa naman, 'pag nagpapa*-chemo *ka, magigising kang bigla ng* 3, 4 a.m. when the house is so quiet, *yun bang sa sobrang tahimik, pati katahimikan maririnig mo.*

Why do you wake up at 3 a.m.?

I think it's the medicine. *Hindi ka makakatulog* for about an hour. So ako, *lalabas ako*, I will check on my children, my sister who stays with me, and then Carlitos, and then I read the Bible *minsan. Pero* with the one hour *na yun*, if you're not on good terms with the situation, *siguro iniisip ko, papaano pa yung babaeng pag gising niya magkagalit sila ng katabi niyang asawa o kaya* her husband is not there and is with someone else?

Sabi ko lang kay Carlitos, "*Basta ako 'pag dere-deretsong namatay, ilagay mo naman dito sa lapida ko na* 1960 *ako pinanganak.*" 1957 *siya eh, ako* 1953. "*Gawin mo namang* 1960," *sabi ko.* "*Kasi* joint *tayo ng lapida tapos makikita nila ikaw* 1957, *ako* 1953. *Ilagay mo naman ako* 1960." (Laughter) *Tatawa lang siya.*

Ibilin mo sa mga anak mo yun.

I plan to. (Laughter)

Are you scared of dying?

Actually, my friend Carla Sison—she's with I Can Serve—she's read about how one gets to a point where you get indifferent about the idea of dying.

When my mom died, she died of diabetic complications, she died with a sense of humor. Before she slipped into a coma, she was laughing, *nakapikit yung mata nya tawa pa siya nang tawa*. I wanna go like that.

Hindi naman alien *ang* death. We just experienced a death in the family and the family was together, so *yung* fear *na ganun, wala. Kasi parang alam mo nang mangyayari. Pero hindi mo lang alam kung kailan.* You just wanna live a little longer.

How are you putting your life in order? Do you even do that?

No. *Kasi parang* you can't. *Iniisip ko, babayaran ko ba lahat ng* credit card *ko nitong buwan na to?* (Laughter) *'Pag binayaran ko ang* credit card *ko, baka naman* last *na 'to kasi nagawa ko na lahat ng dapat kong gawin. Wag muna*, minimum amount *muna ngayon. Yung mga ganun. Hindi ako talaga ma*-emote *eh.*

I think *ako kasi panganay ako* of seven, *wala akong* fear about *kung sino magmamahal sa mga anak ko kapag mawala ako.*

And maybe it's because they're also grown up.

Oo. Alam mo, meron nga akong kinakausap na Stage 4 cancer patient. I was telling her, "*Alam mo, ang ganda ng* prognosis *ngayon* even *sa* Stage 4 patient because *ang dami nang* women *ang nagla*-lobby. *Ang daming mga bagong* medication *ngayon* and some people live up to 15 years. And she was so silent, and then I realized *na kasi* she was very young. *Kahit dagdagan mo pa ng* 15 years, she'll be just about my age now. *Ako at* 51, *dagdagan mo ako ng* 15 years, *pwede nang ihirit yun eh.*

Can you really get rid of cancer?

I believe *lang kasi* there are two kinds of healing: One is the healing where you're completely physically cured. The other healing is when God decides to take you and you die anyway. *Kasi* what else are you a Christian for?

Did you ever question God?

Even during the times I've been distant from God, He has always taken care of me. *Palagay mo kung ako lang mag-isa, papaano ko mapapag-aral yung anim kong kapatid? Doktor yung isa, dentista yung isa, yung nasa* Fine Arts, Diliman *din, yun, bili nang bili ng mga* art materials. You cannot do that alone.

I wasn't a big star in the tradition of Nora Aunor or Lorna Tolentino, I was just a comedienne. *At saka nung nagko*-comedy *ako feeling ko hindi man lang ako yung* comedy *na may sariling kwento, ako lang yung kaibigan ni ganito, laging kasama sa pagko*-confront *dun sa bida, taga-katok* ("knock-knock-knock") *ganyan. Alalay* of the *alalay*. But I was able to help raise my siblings, and I couldn't have done that on my own

People will remember me and my sisters in I Can Serve because we went out of our way not just to look at cancer as a disease that could do damage to us, but something that could be licked together by a group, by a band of soldiers

Somebody up there must really love you.

Yeah. You know, I remember when Carlitos turned Born-Again, we went through this holy-water baptism. *Sabi ko dun sa* pastor *namin*, Tony Penesota, former priest, I said, "Can I have my water baptism again?" *Sabi nya*, "Why?" Because the first time I had it I was in second year high school and *sabi ko nagpa*-baptize *lang ako* to please my dad. *Sabi ng* pastor, "So from the first time that you were baptized up to now, did you ever feel a time that God was not with you?" *Iyak ako nang iyak*, and I realized that with God and me, *ako ang naging* unfaithful *sa* Diyos *ng maraming beses, pero ang* Diyos *hindi naging* unfaithful *sa akin.*

Kasi, ayan umiiyak na ako, si Carlitos... what a faithful husband! Never *akong natakot na* what time is he coming home? He must be with someone else or *ganunganun*. Or damaged goods *na ko* after the operation. Never. The kind of relationship I have with my husband is reason enough to believe that God exists. *Kasi* why did I get this man who respects me as a woman and lets me be what I want to be, like wear my hair shorter than his?

You said something really nice about when you woke up from your operation and you saw Carlitos?

Ah, oo, sabi ko hindi na ako kailangang manalo ng lotto *kasi nandito na siya, itong mamang ito.* With our two kids. *Mababa ang matris ko* so premature *palagi yung dalawang* babies. My daughter was eight months, and my son was seven months. I never carried our babies to term. And then, *parati silang nagkakasakit*, touch-and-go *sila*. The first time, *sabi ng* doctor *kay* Carlitos, don't tell Bibeth because she's hypertensive. *Baka makasama sa kanya. Dinala ni Carlitos yun mag-isa.* He was praying, he didn't tell me anything at all.

He's just really been there for me. Except he forgets, like, going to the States *nung* December, *meron akong* wheelchair *nakalimutan nya. Ang bagal namin, kasi masakit pa* coming from the operation. He said, "Mama, hurry up." *Sabi ko, "Ang sakit eh."* That's when he realized, "*Yung* wheelchair! *Wala na, ang layo na namin eh.*"

Did you ever have a spiritual advisor?

I have friends who are Christians and we talk about the situation often. *At saka ang mga kapatid ko.*

***Hindi ba mabigat pinag-uusapan nyo sa* I Can Serve chatroom?**

No, you know *nga ang* dream *ko*, what I really, really want to do, is a sitcom on cancer patients. One with a sense of humor. *Kasi tumatawa ka pa rin. Alam mo, magtanong ka sa pamilya ko kahit dumating ang panahon na magugupo ako*, I'll really try to come up with a corny knock-knock joke before I close my eyes! (Laughter) In New York, shortly before Christmas, I was kind of sad *kasi wala yung mga kapatid ko. Pero sabi ko, bakit wala pa akong nung grand moment na*, "Waaah (mimics crying sound), *bakit ako?*"

***Wala kang* breakdown scene? (Laughter)**

Wala! Ang corny! (Laughter)

***Hindi ka mano*-nominate. (Laughter)**

Hindi. Baka sa Urian *pwede*. (Laughter)

Of the women that you knew from I Can Serve, has someone died?

Yes. It felt really bad. Her name was Betty Yap. She was very funny, wonderful sense of humor. It turned out Betty was anthrocytin-resistant, meaning, *hindi siya tinablan ng* chemo at all. *Merong ganun eh.*

Is I Can Serve exclusively for breast cancer patients only?

Ellen Tordesillas has no breast cancer but she's a member. And then, *si* Betty, *talagang tawa ako nang tawa*. She's so funny, *ang ganda-ganda nyang babae, parang* Taiwanese movie actress. *Nagpatulong siya sa amin na humingi ng* second opinion *sa mga* doctor. *Eh nung una, nahihiya siya, gusto nya yung* doctor *na* regular. Sabi ko if you're not happy with your *modista, 'di lipat ka ng* couturier, *hindi ka naman mahihiya dun sa dating* couturier or *dating* makeup artist *mo, lalo na 'pag katawan natin.* We went to her and *talagang yung diagnosis nya nakalagay sa* notebook, *sinusulat pa nya.* But then *yun na nga*, she was anthrocytin-resistant. She died *mga* April this year.

Anong* stage *siya nun?

Two, and then she went straight to four because *hindi siya* nagrespond *sa* medication.

But you underwent the same medication?

Yes. The whole nine yards.

How old is the youngest member of I Can Serve?

Ah, *meron kaming mga* members na 21 years old. *Ang babata nila eh.* But you know, this thing na how can I claim na God is really there for me? *Siguro nung mga* times *na bababa ang* spirit *mo*, like, after I got out of the hospital, I was told na *bumili ako ng* false breast. I was told at Marks & Spencer's *merong* bra na may pocket. They were there, and then *nakabili nga ako, dalawa. Pero iniisip ko lang, ma*-depress *kaya ako, kasi*, you know, *bakit biglang* all of a sudden *ang bibilhin mong bra may bulsa na? Eto na* reality, one of your breasts ay *hindi totoo.*

And then this really pretty young woman said, "Hi Bibeth, I'm a member of your e-group. My name is Crissan." *Si* Crissan Celdran. *Sabi ko naman, "Ang dami kong e-groups eh, may* political, *may ganyan-ganyan*, which e-group?" I Can Serve. Oh, *ang bata nito*. And she was so pretty! She was diagnosed, I think, during her honeymoon period and then she was told *na baka hindi na siya magkaanak. Kapapanganak lang, kambal pa.*

Magaling na siya?

Yeah, I think so. *Si* Kara, she was told na *hindi na siya magkakaanak, nagkaanak pa.* Another member *namin, si* Dayday David, *sinabihan din.*

***Ikaw?* (Laughter)**

Malay mo. (Laughter).

***Milagro na yun.* (Laughter).**

Did you have to change your wardrobe?

I'm still in denims. I think si Armida Siguion-Reyna *sumuko na nang kabibili sa kin ng* silk *na damit na hindi ko rin naman ginagamit.* I mean, for occasions, *ginagamit ko, pero wala eh. At saka kasi*, if you're chesty, you tend to wear men's shirts a lot. And that's where you feel most comfortable. *Hindi ako mahilig sa* girly-girly tops. *At saka* most women who were around *na nagdadalaga nung* First Quarter Storm are kinda masculine in the way they move and the way they wear clothes. *Hindi pwedeng maarte kasi kayo yung mga tipong matutulog sa* headquarters *kasi gumagawa kayo ng mga* posters *at magdidikit, ganyan-ganyan.*

Pero ako, I will admit that in my younger days, *nagamit ko naman talaga ang aking* breasts because I did flash my cleavage (Laughter). *Pagka nag* rally *kasi nung araw, ang babaan ng mga rallyista, sa may* Apo Hardware *sa* Quezon Avenue. *May grupo na ng mga babae, nagtatanggal na kami ng* bra *malayo pa lang, kasi kami yung lalapit dun sa* Metrocom. We developed a kind of walk and breast shake.

When I was taking a shower before my operation and I was washing my breasts for the last time, and I remembered that I was able to breast-feed my kids, one year for each. So *nagamit ko naman talaga nang husto ang susong ito*. But the day before my operation, I was going to the dentist and *manipis yung* T-shirt *ko. Sabi ng asawa ko*, "I can see your two nipples." *Sabi ko*, "Today is my last day to have two nipples, let me show them!"

Are all breast cancer patients boobsy?

No, no. Not all. *Merong mga* flat-chested. *May mga lalaki pa ngang nagkaka*-breast cancer. It has nothing to do with the size, really.

Basta alam ko lang, ang statistics *na*

LAUGHTER/ D3

Laughter is bigger than the Big C

From page D2

nakaka-freak out is every two hours, a Filipina dies of breast cancer. *Tayo ang* highest *sa* Southeast Asia. The first time I read about that statistics, *tapos na*-confirm *ko*, I remember *galing ako sa amin ng* 1 p.m. *nakarating ako* almost 4 p.m. *sa* Quezon City, and *sabi ko sa loob-loob ko may namatay na naman. Pag-uwi ko ganun din. Nakakatakot.*

After the age of 40 you have to have regular mammo. Yung BSE, breast self-examination when you're 20 and above. *Sabi nung iba,* set-up *daw ako* because I had my period before I was 10, and then I gave birth after 30. That's said to be a set-up.

So there's stuff like that that you have to know?

Yeah. You have to do a lot of reading. *Yung mga iba kasi, yung mga* eggs *nila kulang-kulang, merong naniniwalang 'wag mo pagalaw yung suso mo kasi kakalat. Ako,* I think one of the reasons why I didn't detect there was something wrong earlier was my lifestyle. *Eh 'di ba pag may tinatapos kang* project, three days *kang hindi matutulog* so *magbabawi ka ng tulog* three or four days. So *kung meron akong mga* times *na napapagod ako, iniisip ko* it's because *ito yung mundo ko*. But there must have been something wrong there already.

So have you changed your lifestyle?

Ngayon, oo. 'Pag inaantok ako, matutulog ako. I don't smoke anymore. I eat everything in moderation though my sister will not agree. *Kasi,* my sister, *dalawa lang kaming babae nyan* and she's been there with me every step of the way. *Nung na*-ospital *ako, sinamahan nya ako.* But the only time she told me off was *nung nandun kami sa* Café Bola *sa* Cubao *at umorder ako ng sinigang na lechon. Sarap talaga.* I said to the waiter, *"Ako sinigang na lechon at saka..."* Sabi nya, *"Hanep! May at saka ka pa. Sinigang ng lechon na nga may at saka pa." Hindi na ako naka*-order *ng "at saka" kasi inaway ako ng kapatid ko. Kaya ang ginawa ko* the next day *kumain ako sa labas, hindi ko siya sinama.*

Bakit masama ba kumain ng lechon?

Oo. When I binge *kasi* I really binge. Like that time na *nabaliw talaga ako sa Paning's butungpakwan,* one kilo a day. *Nagko*-computer *ako ganyan. Tumaba ako nang tumaba.* And then *sinabi ko sa* acupuncturist *ko*—'cause he was the one who took away my smoking—can you take my appetite away? *Ang sabi nya, no, kasi sa* Chinese medicine, *'pag* may appetite *ka,* it's a sign of recovery.

Malakas akong kumain talaga. I enjoy my food. *Lalung-lalo na* when you give up smoking, *kasi yung dila mo talaga* every four corners of the tongue you taste everything. *At saka buti na lang* din that I've drunk all the liquor that a woman can drink in her lifetime so I don't miss the alcohol. I'm off.

What was the last thing you wrote?

Last year I wrote a Vic Sotto movie, and then now, I'm writing a Vic Sotto movie again. I wrote most of Vic's film-fest movies, I think all of it *pa nga*. Vic and I started working when we're 24 years old.

So what's your best work?

I think it's still a work in progress. *Siguro lang,* the reason I am able to be here right now, to have cancer but handle it well is *para siyang naging* totality *ng lahat-lahat ng nagawa mo sa buhay.* I think in my lifetime, I've done enough loving and giving *na hindi ako natatakot na baka walang magmahal sa mga anak ko* afterwards, or *yung ang mga anak ko magiging ulila.* It extends, I think, to the people I work with, the scripts I've written.

There was one time when I was newly married, I was pregnant with my first child, it was a Thursday evening, 7 p.m., *nagsasarado ako ng* gate. Then *narinig ko sa* entire street *ng* village *yung* theme song *ng* "Okay Ka Fairy Ko." The entire street was watching, I felt so humbled.

***May kahinahaan ba ang isang* Bibeth Orteza?**

Only I think as far as my kids are concerned. *Yun lang talaga.* When I was drifting into consciousness after the operation, *iniisip ko yung mga mukha ng mga anak ko nung bata pa sila. At saka yung amoy nila.* I think the best smell *talaga* in the world is the smell of baby's breath. For me, the memory of that smell is enough reason for me to hope that I would get healed. *Iniisip ko* if ever *naka*-distill *ang* Diyos ng purity, *andun sa hininga ng bata. Ang bango! Napakapangit nung bulaklak na pingalanan nilang* baby's breath, *pero napakabango nung* baby's breath. (Laughter)

What sustains your hope?

Being a member of a group like I Can Serve for me sustains my hope not only in terms of *yung* personal survival *ko,* but that in the future cancer will be licked. *Kasi* I believe everybody will be involved in the fight against breast cancer now, whether the patient *mismo o* caregiver. *'Pag nagtulong-tulong yan,* in effect, *walang mamamatay sa* cancer.

I like saying this, I will not die. Like a soldier I will only fade away, and for a long period, people will remember me and my sisters in I Can Serve because we went out of our way not just to look at cancer as a disease that could do damage to us, but something that could be licked together by a group, by a band of soldiers.

Ang mga tao lang talaga ang feeling nila 'pag may cancer *ka, hindi ka na tumatawa. Ang pinaka*-weird, *may nagsabi pa sa akin na, "O, naka*-boots *ka, 'di ba may cancer ka?"* (Laughter)

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

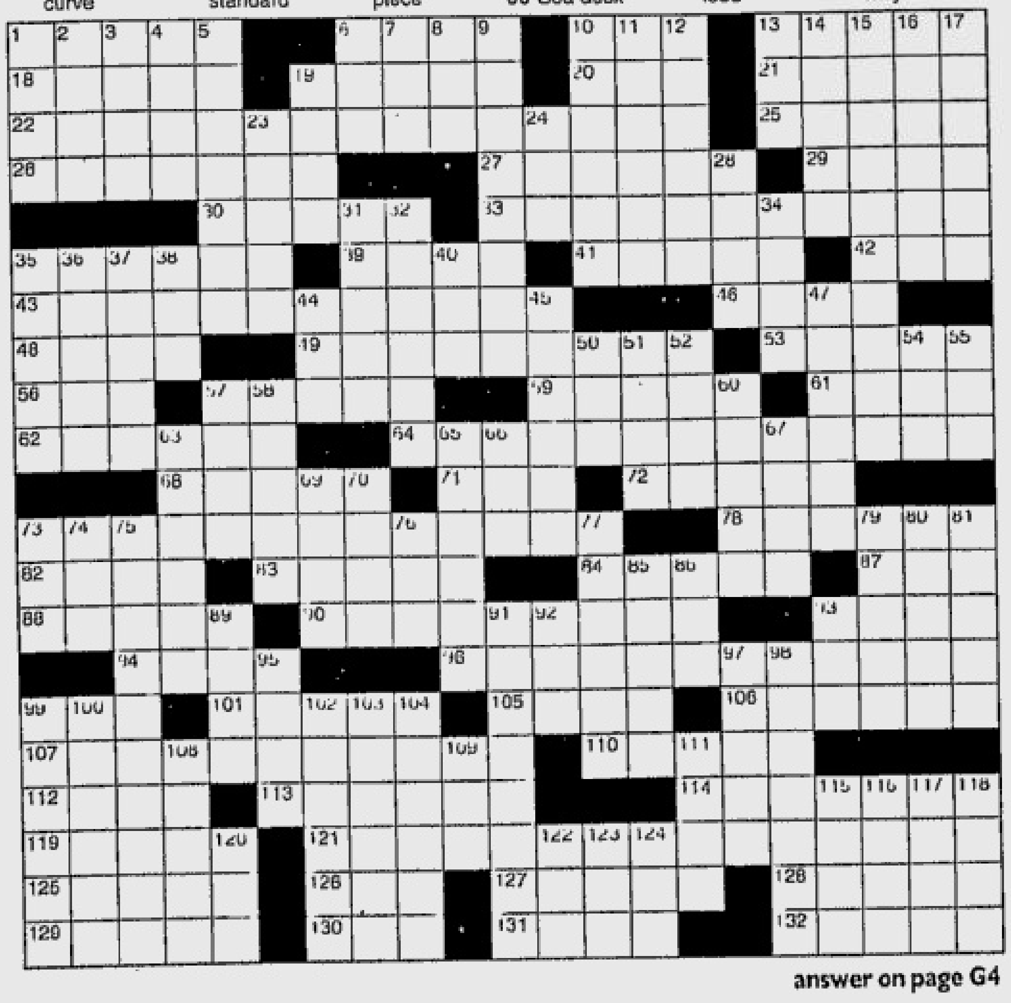
INSTRUMENTS

ACROSS

1 Large parrot
6 Pack down
10 — Nabisco (Oreo maker)
13 Checked out before robbing
18 Caesar's eyes
19 Figure skater Oksana
20 "Yoo- —!"
21 Prayer place
22 News reporter from Havana?
25 One of the Florida Keys
26 Actor Tracy
27 Been present at
29 Venus de —
30 Georgia of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
33 Sir Thomas More book?
35 Carter's successor
39 Actress Taylor
41 — Khan ("The Jungle Book" tiger)
42 Road curve
43 Take a trip to Tombstone?
46 Weeps
48 Baal, e.g.
49 Paradise on earth
53 Tariff-eliminating pact
56 "— Blu, Dipinto di Blu" (1958 hit)
57 Pianist Rubinstein
59 Kitty calls
61 Honcho
62 "— Pointe Blank"
64 Informal groups of interior designers?
68 Made-up
71 Baseballer Gehrig
72 Gem State
73 Hues of a famous five-ring logo?
78 Generic
82 What "kilo-" means
83 Sierra Nevada lake
84 "My word!"
87 Mineo or Maglie
88 Froth
90 Mancini standard
93 Skin woe
94 Big barrel
96 First-rate street-corner crowd?
99 Steambath site
101 Swedish cars
105 Standard
106 After-taxes salary
107 Decide you don't need the bank's help after all?
110 — Park, CO
112 Forever — day
113 Spanish explorer
114 Most risque
119 Sierra —
121 Play a guitar with impatient irritation?
125 Self-respect
126 Hawaii's Mauna —
127 Chicago hub
128 Soda unit
129 Lecher
130 Personals, e.g.
131 Windy-day toy
132 Practice piece

DOWN

1 Soft shoes, for short
2 "Can I borrow — of sugar?"
3 Sugar unit
4 Actor Ladd
5 Shrink back from
6 Greek T
7 Ventilate
8 Of city govt.
9 Tormenting
10 Massive mammals
11 Mary's man
12 Powerful German dog, informally
13 "Silent" prez
14 Car rental chain
15 Tries hard to attain
16 "Bald" birds
17 Slobbers
19 Bjorn of tennis
23 Barbara Bush's twin
24 Destiny
28 Rowers
31 Yale or Root
32 Gecko, e.g.
34 Glowing gas
35 Traveling in a camper, informally
36 Sea duck
37 Sing — (vocalize alone)
38 Hodges of baseball
40 Mr. Chaney
44 Pre-U trio
45 Hot dog brand
47 Monkey type
50 Suffix with court or cash
51 TV's Anderson
52 Electrified
54 "For shame!"
55 Donkey
57 P.D.Q.
58 Ignited anew
60 Tolerate
63 Art gallery in W. Calif.
65 DeGeneres and Barkin
66 Soft murmur
67 "— next?"
69 Con game
70 Reverb
73 Sue Grafton's "— for Outlaw"
74 Hack off
75 Encouraging words
76 Tic-tac-toe win
77 Acute
79 Music industry org.
80 Divine food
81 Sorrowful song
85 Microbes
86 Actress Meyers
89 To be, to Brutus
91 Goes wild
92 NYSE debut
93 G-man, e.g.
95 De —, Illinois
97 Shaq of the court
98 Downsize, e.g.
99 Resells at a profit
100 Sandwich shop chain
102 Nome locale
103 Fled
104 Native Israelis
108 Sweets
109 — -TURN (traffic sign)
111 Opposite of 68-Across
115 Acronym pt.
116 "—, Brute!"
117 Winter glider
118 What a car rolls on, to a Brit
120 Always, to bards
122 — Beta Kappa
123 Break bread
124 Three, in Italy



answer on page G4

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BISHOP Joel Baylon (center) with fundraisers, lawyer Ranier Butalid, Ambassador Tony Villamor, Tony Medina, Cory Quirino and Joe Arollado

Masbate Cathedral raises P2.5 million

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE RECENT fundraising dinner concert featuring tenor Frankie Aseniero and soprano Deeda Barretto at the Peninsula Manila Hotel brought to P2.5 million money raised to pay for debts incurred in the restoration of St. Anthony de Padua Cathedral in Masbate.

The amount included funds raised earlier through the golf tournament and dinner dance at the Philippine Columbian. Also included were pledges from Loida Nicolas Lewis, Reghis Romero and Louie Quisumbing.

Tony Medina, chair of the St. Anthony de Padua Society, welcomed Masbateños and guests to the hotel's Conservatory. P. L. Lim, Peninsula founding chair, was there, too. After all, he is from Uson, Masbate. In August, he hosted a dinner for Bishop Joel Baylon at the Old Manila. Guests included Justice Leo Quisumbing, William Gatchalian, Mickey Romero, Cory Quirino, Tony Medina, Marilyn Altarejos-Ejercito, and Dr. Genevieve Huang.

P. L. Lim entertained the guests with his son David, president of the hotel.

The Sept. 8 dinner concert was attended by, among others, Nick Torres, representing Metrobank; Ambassador Tony Villamor; lawyer Rainier Butalid; Joe Arollado; Daisy Arevalo; Fita Perez; Zena Fumar; Minda Delzvin Torres; Fiscal Pedro and Angie Salanga; Marilyn Altarejos-Ejercito; Tina Ferreros; Baby Magtibay, who came with Kazakhstan honorary consul Ed Fereira; Shiela Romero, who came with her parents Marilyn and Freddie Bermudez and sister Bubbles Aguilar; Tito Katindig; lawyer Celso James Fernandez; Gerrine San Diego and photograper Victor Besa; Danny Valenzuela, former Masbate provincial administrator; and Coy Delavin helped set up meetings with Masbateños in Metro Manila.

Aseniero and Barretto performed opera numbers, did a duet of "The Prayer," popularized by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion, and sang Broadway songs. Professor Nita Quinto of the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music accompanied them on the piano.

The diocese of Masbate will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Sept. 25 with a concelebrated Mass at the newly restored St. Anthony de Padua Cathedral.

Feast day

Maria Purification Obra, associate dean of the graduate school of the University of La Salette in Santiago, Isabela, reminds everyone Sept. 19 (which happens to be my birthday) is the feast day of Our Lady of La Salette. Prof. Obra is a lay associate of the Sisters of Notre Dame de La Salette.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Silang, Cavite, will also celebrate her feast day.

Our Lady appeared to two children—Maximin Giraud and Melanie Calvat—in 1846. Asked to approach, the children noticed she was weeping. The Lady said: "If my people will not submit, I shall be forced to let fall the arm of my Son. It is so strong, so heavy that I can no longer withhold it."

Then, she asked them to say their prayers, even just one Our Father and one Hail Mary (for the conversion of sinners).

Help needed

The St. Anthony Ma. Zaccaria Seminary on Apitong St., Marikina City, needs help in supporting its students. Fr. Frank Papa, C.R.S.P., rector and superior, said the order already had eight Filipino priests, 12 seminarians in Theology, and 11 novices in college. Checks, payable to Barnabite Fathers, should be sent to Fr. Papa at the above address. Call him at 9343563 or 9418226.

The order is the Clerics Regular of St. Paul or the Barnabite Fathers. The college tuition is P9,100 and the board and lodging is P1,100 a month. Thank you for your kindness.

Pamphlet

The secretariat of the Prayer Power Movement has printed a pamphlet with excerpts from the book of Norman Vincent Peale. For free copies, write to Prayer Power Movement, 10/F Stanisco Tower, 999 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila, or call 5264730.

Fashionably proper

Minette Sison, an Opus Dei supernumerary, is one of the speakers at the fashion seminar 9 a.m.-1 p.m.(inclusive of lunch), Sept. 30, at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Minette will speak on jewelry and accessories which she makes with Inday Vargas-Javellana under the label "Tia Carmen" (after the sister of St. Josemaria Escriva).

Other speakers are Hindy Weber Tantoco and Baby Doble.

The seminar is organized by Women Influencing Fashion (WIF) whose officers are Baby Doble, president; Joy Schallenberg, treasurer; Minette Sison, secretary; Rina Tobias, marketing officer; and Beth Villafuerte, liaison officer.

Call Amy at 6387392.

Pilgrimage

For the second time this year, healing priest Fr. Corsie Legaspi is bringing pilgrims to Europe on Oct. 27 via Adam's Travel. The group will visit Warsaw, Poland, to see the Chopin Memorial and the Warsaw Ghetto; Czestochowa where the Black Madonna is enshrined in the Jasna Gora; Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II; and Prague, famous for its Sto. Niño of Prague.

Call Adam's Travel at 5211651 or text 0915-5514468.

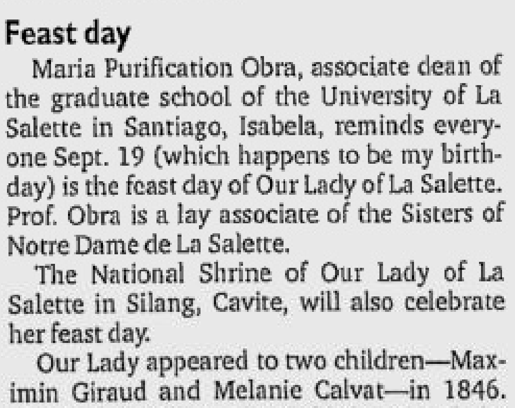
Exhibit

Malacañang executive secretary Manny Gaite's painting exhibit, "*Dolot Ki Ina*," is ongoing until Sept. 19 at the Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in Naga. It aims to raise funds for the parish church of Tinambac, Camarines Sur. Fr. Mario Gaite is parish priest.

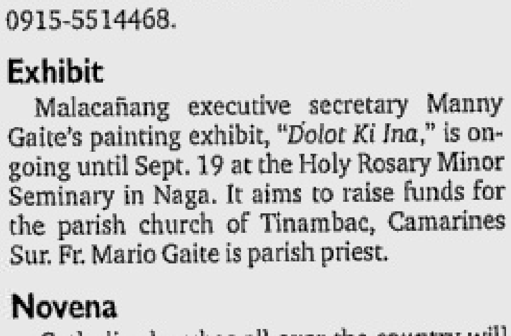
Novena

Catholic churches all over the country will hold the novena to San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint, Sept. 19-27. Feast day is Sept. 28. Sol Alturas Yu believes in the saint's miraculous intercession. I put *sampaguita* flowers around the neck of the image in Malate Church to show my affection.

Those who want prayers to San Lorenzo Ruiz can write to me c/o P.O. Box 2050, Manila. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.



MASBATE benefactors David Lim, president of Manila Peninsula, Justice Leo Quisumbing and PL Lim, founder and chair of Manila Pen



TENOR Frankie Aseniero in a duet of "The Prayer" with soprano Deeda Barretto

Holy Ghost Service held today

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF God (RCCG) is holding its Holy Ghost Service at 3 p.m., today, at the 3/F Didache Bldg., España Blvd., near corner AH Lacson, Sampaloc, Manila, opposite the University of Santo Tomas.

RCCG, a worldwide Pentecostal church that began in Nigeria, is inviting Filipinos from all walks of life with problems to receive healing, deliverance, prosperity, miracles and Salvation in Christ Jesus, during its "Anointing Service."

RCCG has churches in Baguio City, Laguna, Manila and Madela, Quirino. The latter two are under pastor in charge Jonathan Ashonibare. A new church is scheduled to open in Dasmariñas, Cavite, in October or November.

The RCCG has over 280 parishes all over North America. Pastor James Falade is chair of the board of coordinators of the North American church.

Call.7322382 or visit www.rccg.org.

Sunday LIFESTYLE w dings

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inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Tropical brides, sort of

SAMSON, front and back

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IF WE ARE TO GET LITERAL BY sticking to the event's supposed theme, then a third of the 22 or so bridal wear recently presented by members of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines was a bit off the mark.

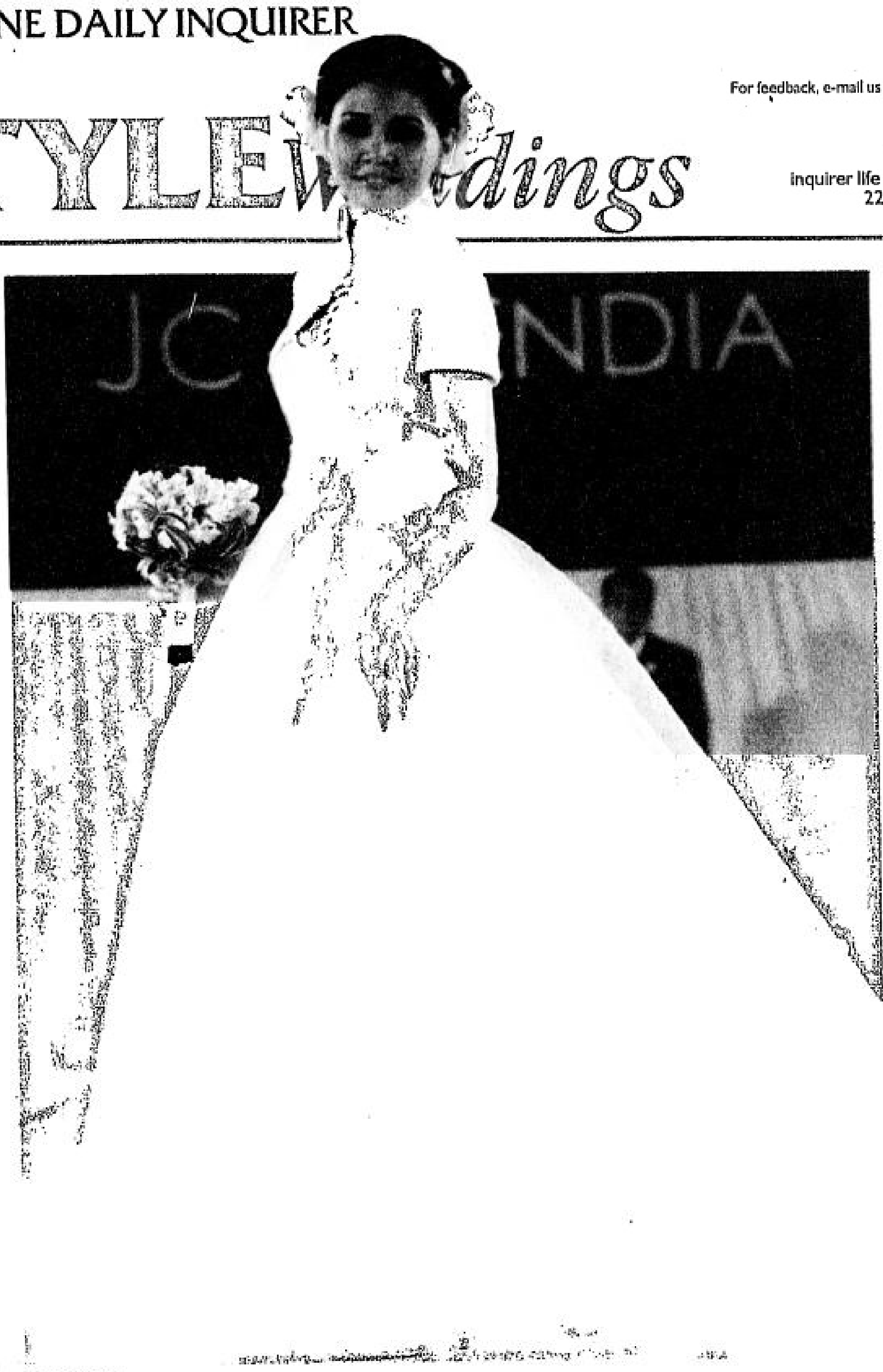
Billed as "A Crowne for the Bride," the recent fashion show at the Crowne Plaza Galleria's grand—as in huge—ballroom gathered the likes of Randy Ortiz, Frederick Peralta, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Gerry Katigbak, Nono Palmos, Larry Espinosa, Tippi Ocampo and Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, among others, as they did their respective takes on the "tropical bride."

While not a few did abbreviated and fluid dresses fit for a resort wedding, some went for fully embellished gowns suited for ballrooms and places of worship.

Among the evening's standouts were pieces done by Arcy Gayatin, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Ivarluski Aseron, Joey Samson, JC Buendia and Vittorio. Not only did they (with the exception of Samson and Buendia) adhere to the theme, they came up with wearable and timeless creations.

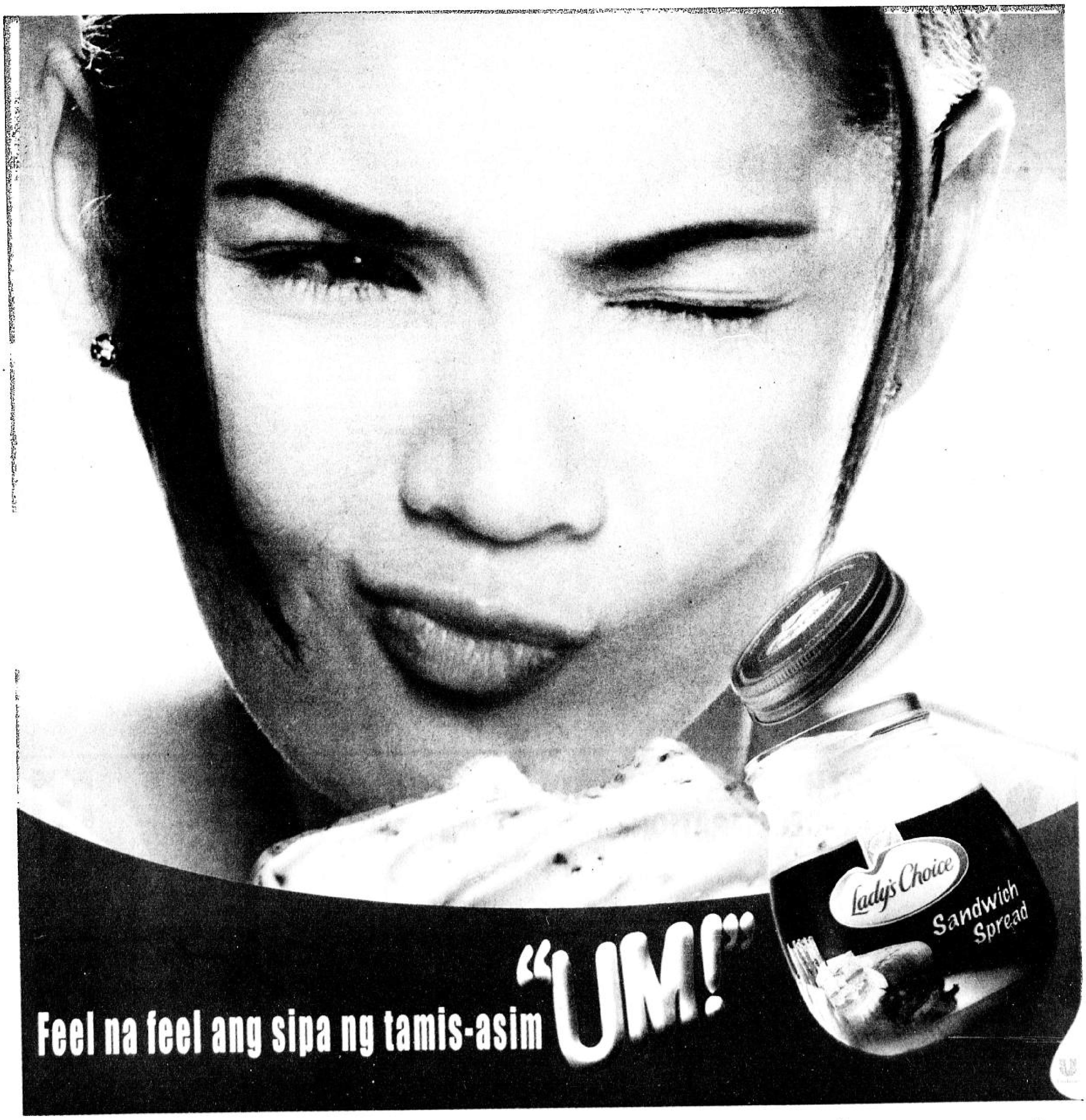
Avel Bacudio and Mel Vergel de Dios also

TROPICAL/E2

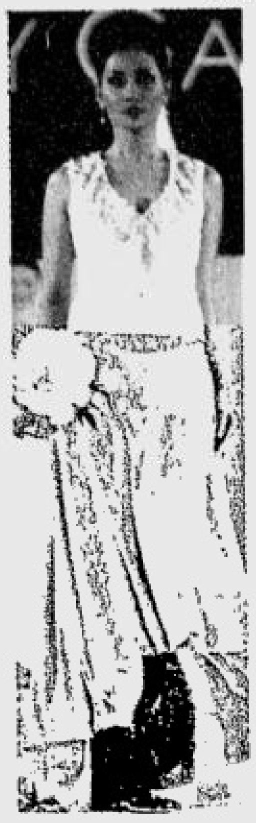


BUENDIA

While some designers did fluid dresses fit for a resort wedding, others went for fully embellished gowns suited for ballrooms and places of worship



Tropical brides, sort of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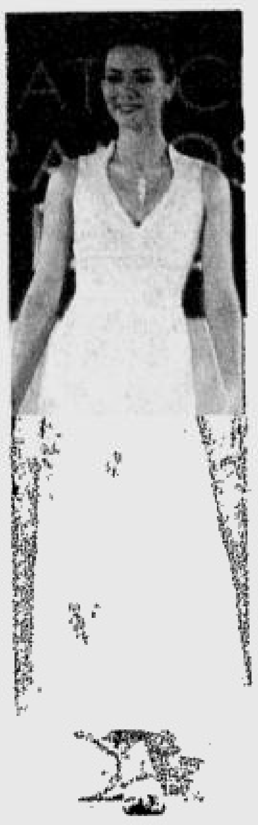
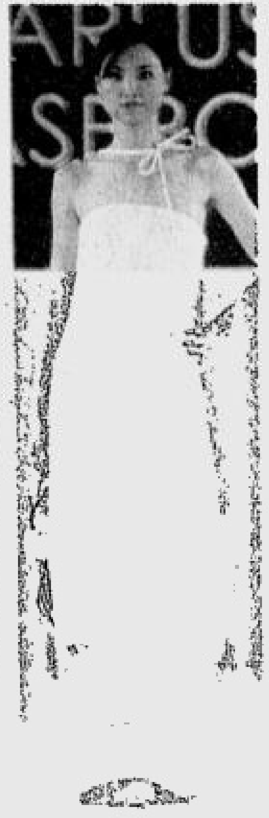
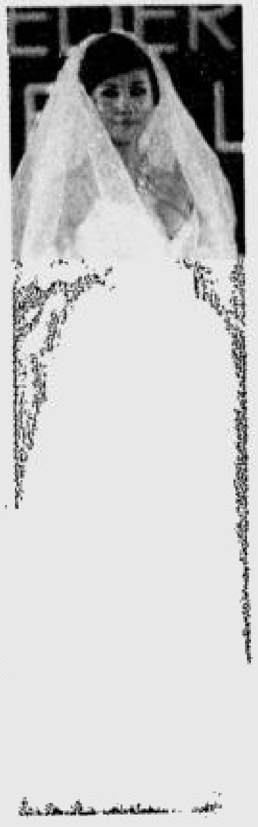

RAMOS-DIAZ


ASERON


PERALTA

LUSTICO

LLOREN

VITTORIO

OCAMPO

LAUREL

From page E1

did striking outfits for the non-traditional bride. Any woman, for that matter, will need loads of chutzpah to pull off such outfits.

Bacudio, for instance, did an ultra-revealing top fashioned from vintage lace taken from one of his mom's old dresses (his bias-cut skirt with an obi sash looked divine). We're pretty sure his mom didn't dress that way.

Vergel de Dios' loose satin jumpsuit was the antithesis to all the froufrou. Apart from its shine, the outfit only had a series of piping, a bit of shirring, a string of pearls and covered buttons to spruce it up.

Interesting

We also found gowns by Lustico and Lloren interesting to a point. Since we consider them two of the best designers in the group, they somehow failed to live up to our great expectations. Such perhaps is the price of success.

The effort Lustico put into his strapless serpentina went largely unnoticed due to his choice of fabric. For one, his gown made of stark white cashmere crepe appeared flat from afar. Upon closer scrutiny, however, both skirt and bodice revealed several panels that he painstakingly stitched together to form a whole.

Vittorio, who resorted to a similar technique, was more successful with what he described as "dart manipulation." Although the panels that make up his duchess satin number weren't as narrow and as numerous as that of Lustico's, he succeeded in making each cut stand out by underscoring it with piping. It was almost perfect, except for one visible hitch: The designer should have done away with the gown's side seams.

Lloren, who's equally comfortable working with soft as well as rigid fabrics, showed his versatility anew with a Greek-cum-Egyptian-inspired silk chiffon mini dress lined with satin.

Apart from the alarmingly short hemline, the piece had enough bling in the form of a belt-like trimming and cascading tail. Actually, the designer fashioned the metallic embellishment from lace, which he painted with gold leaf and sprinkled with Swarovski crystals.

The outfit did make heads turn toward the ramp, all right, but it somehow looked a bit costume-y for comfort to be worn in real life. That's, of course, unless you're Wonder Woman getting hitched on Paradise Island.

On target

As usual, Gayatin was on target with a two-piece jersey number consisting of an embellished white tank top and a beige balloon skirt with an uneven hemline.

The Cebu-based designer confined the beadwork on the two-toned lace ruffles, which she adorned with bits of mother-of-pearl, shells, resin and tiny mirrors. The entire skirt, which she first draped on a mannequin, was tucked along the waistband to achieve a natural balloon effect.

By making his model wear a ribbed tank top underneath a bolero, Buendia injected a casual touch to his two-piece number, which also included a full, A-line skirt made from layers of tulle and studded with mini flowers.

Aseron, like Lloren, is increasingly becoming difficult to pigeonhole. The younger designer's versatility also showed in a seemingly simple A-line duchess satin creation that had a number of eye-catching twists.

The lower part of Aseron's off-white gown, for instance, was dotted with a series of black lace. To keep the stark element from standing out, he toned it down by adding a *jusi* overlay.

He didn't stop there. What seemed like a strapless number was actually a halter with a pair of straps coming from the back and finding their way around the model's neck in the form of a ribbon.

Dusky bride

Samson stuck to what he does best: a tailored day dress in silk linen, which reminded us of a reversed coattail reminiscent of the 1940s. What seemed like an electric-pleated detail on the back was actually a separate skirt made from a series of overlapping shirt collars.

No need for a veil, as Samson opted for a gemstone-studded "baroness" hat. The look may be far from tropical, but we'd recommend it any day over Ricci Lizaso's literal interpretation of a dusky bride from the mythical island of Capri.

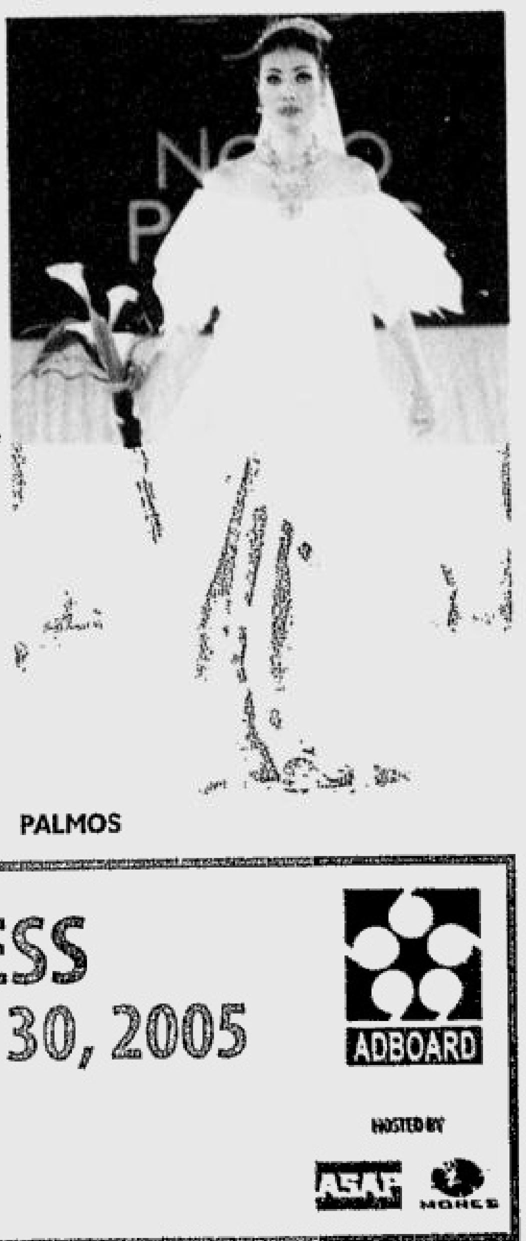
The look teemed with all the clichés Regal Films had perfected almost 30 years ago for its stable of bold stars: see-through bathrobe of a gown draped over a white bikini-clad woman, who was spruced up with faux flowers and shod in laced-up espadrilles. If that were Lizaso's intentions, then Mother Lily's magic *kamison* (chemise) would have sufficed.

But none can be more appalling (and disappointing) than the *capiz*-studded tube mini Rajo Laurel did. What on earth possessed the usually reliable designer to come up with such an oddity?

Laurel seemed to have channeled the works of Pitoy Moreno and Manuel Bondad, who made better use of the same embellishment in the past. Apart from this unoriginal touch, his long-haired model wore metallic lace-up shoes reminiscent of a cage dancer circa 1970s.

Coastal chic? A go-go aesthetic was more like it.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph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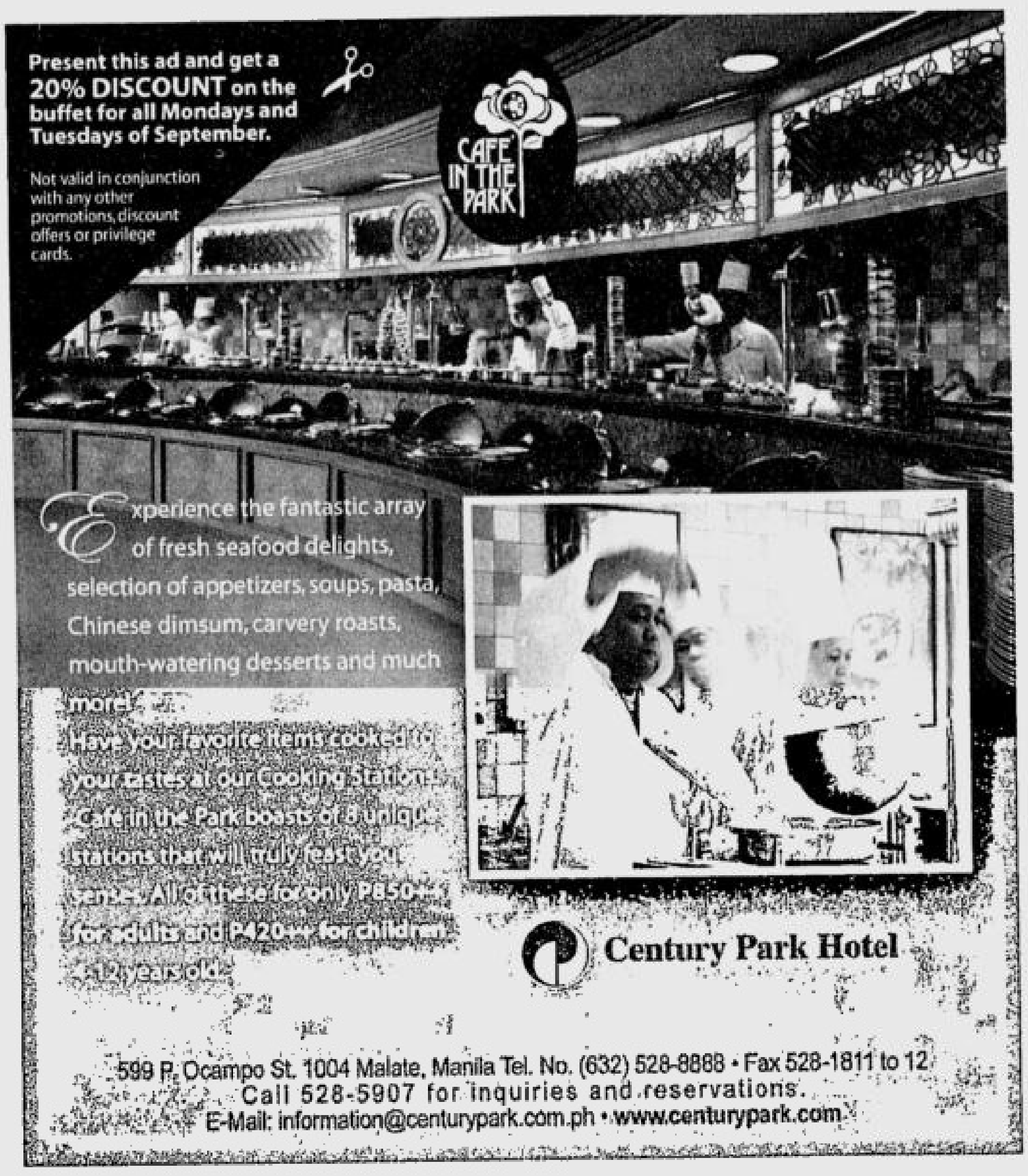
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CALDO-BRITO

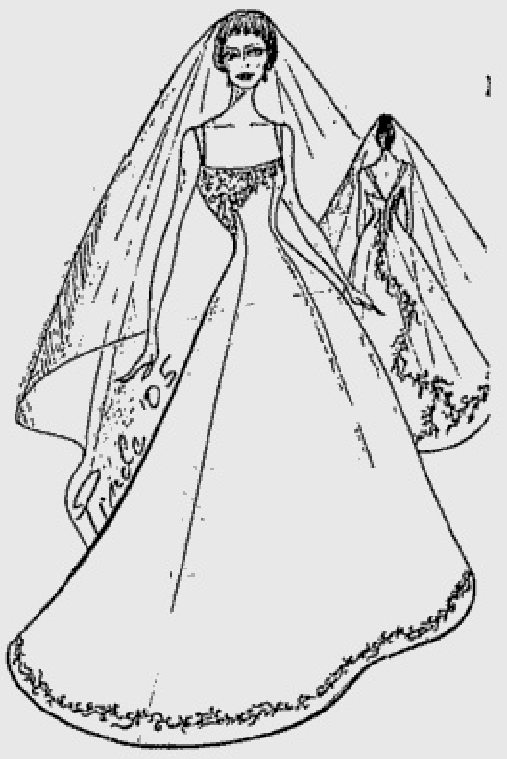
Howell C. Caldo, son of **Emiliano** and **Presida Caldo**, recently wed **Ma. Donna G. Brito**, daughter of **Carlo Magno** (deceased) and **Dr. La Paz Brito**, at Sto. Niño de Molino Parish Church, Imus, Cavite.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

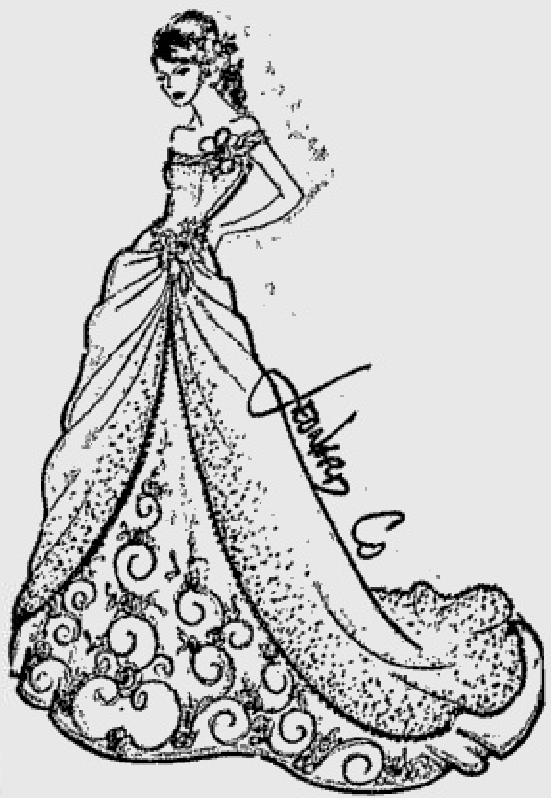
UY ANNIVERSARY

Ernesto and **Surleyta Arante Uy** will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on Oct. 9 with a renewal of vows at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in Palo, Leyte. Reception will be at Kanhuraw Hall in Tacloban City. Ernie has just retired as sous chef of Sheraton Hotel in the Bay Area in San Francisco while Surlet is a retired teacher. They live in Salida, California. Their son, **Gil**, is a physical therapist in California.



TAN-DE JOYA

Janet de Joya, daughter of **Elmer** and **Rosa de Joya**, will marry **Glenn Tan**, son of **Gil** and **Julian Tan**, today, at Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Intramuros, Manila. **Eric Pineda** designed the bride's gown of ivory-silk satin. The bodice has an asymmetric beadwork pattern that cascades to the cathedral train. It is held by rhinestone-studded noodle straps with satin and horsehair French bows and dangling Swarovski crystals. A 10-meter illusion tulle fastened by floral-shaped crystal pins complete the ensemble. Pineda also designed the gowns of the bridal entourage in apple green and lemon chiffon. Reception will follow at the Isla Ballroom, Edsa-Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.



PALACOL DEBUT

Lorna Palacol, daughter of **Agustin** and **Lorna Palacol**, celebrated her 18th birthday yesterday at Makati Shangri-La. The debutante, a sophomore nursing student in Centro Escolar University, wore a strapless bouffant salmon-peach and aqua-green sateen gown with re-embroidered floral appliqué and crystal-cut glass beads designed by **Leonard Co**.

Bridal and debutante fair in Pampanga

VISIT PAMPANGA'S BIGGEST BRIDAL and debutante's fair on Oct. 1 and 2 at Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field. Spread over six function rooms including the Grand Ballroom, this fair is a "must-see" event for brides- and grooms-to-be and debutantes.

A fashion show will be held on Oct. 1, 6 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom. Ten Pampango designers who will feature their creations include Cholo Gaerlan, Emer Carreon, Frederick Policarpio, Manelle Munar Chamian, Marlon Tuazon, Rosette Ramos Biag, Manny Ocampo, Noel Calma, Philip Torres and Glen Canlas. Forty-five exhibitors will showcase their products.

The fair will run from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field is along Mimosa Drive, Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Field, Pampanga.

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By Beia Formoso
Contributor

> Canon knows there's still something special about displaying a photo in a frame in your living room

THE DIGITAL ERA IS INDEED UPON US.

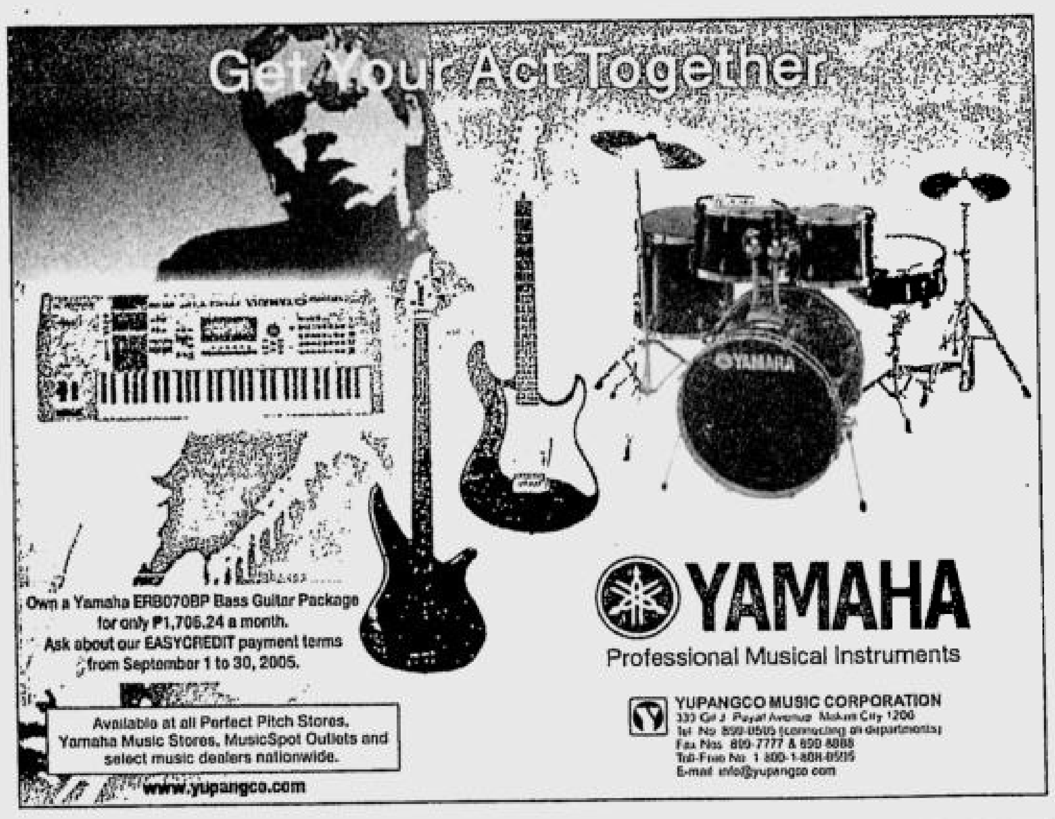
When the digital camera popped up in the market, many doubted its staying power, especially professional photographers who declared their loyalty to film. However, even they could not escape the wonders of technology and soon discovered the benefits of digital photography. Non-professionals, meaning us regular people who simply like to take pictures, also caught on the digital craze and now digital cameras come in affordable prices and have become staples in everyday life.

The advantages of digital photography are well known—being able to view the photo right away (and delete it right away if it's ugly), change camera settings and modes at the push of a button and create special effects instantly. Perhaps the only downside is that most of the time, the photos remain inside the camera or memory card, or inside the computer or laptop once they've been transferred.

Face it, sometimes you're just too lazy to transfer the pictures to a PC, then burn the photos to a CD, then take them to a developer and wait for them to print. Photos printed at home using a regular printer are never good quality, at least not photo-lab quality.

Because of this, most people take the easy

PICTURE/F2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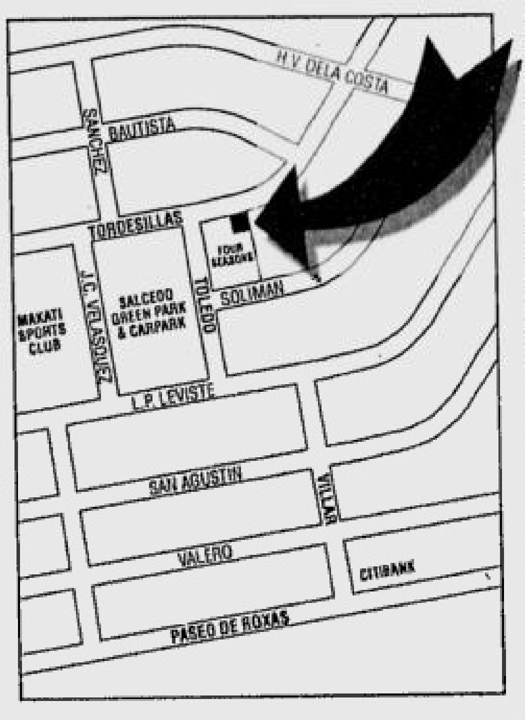

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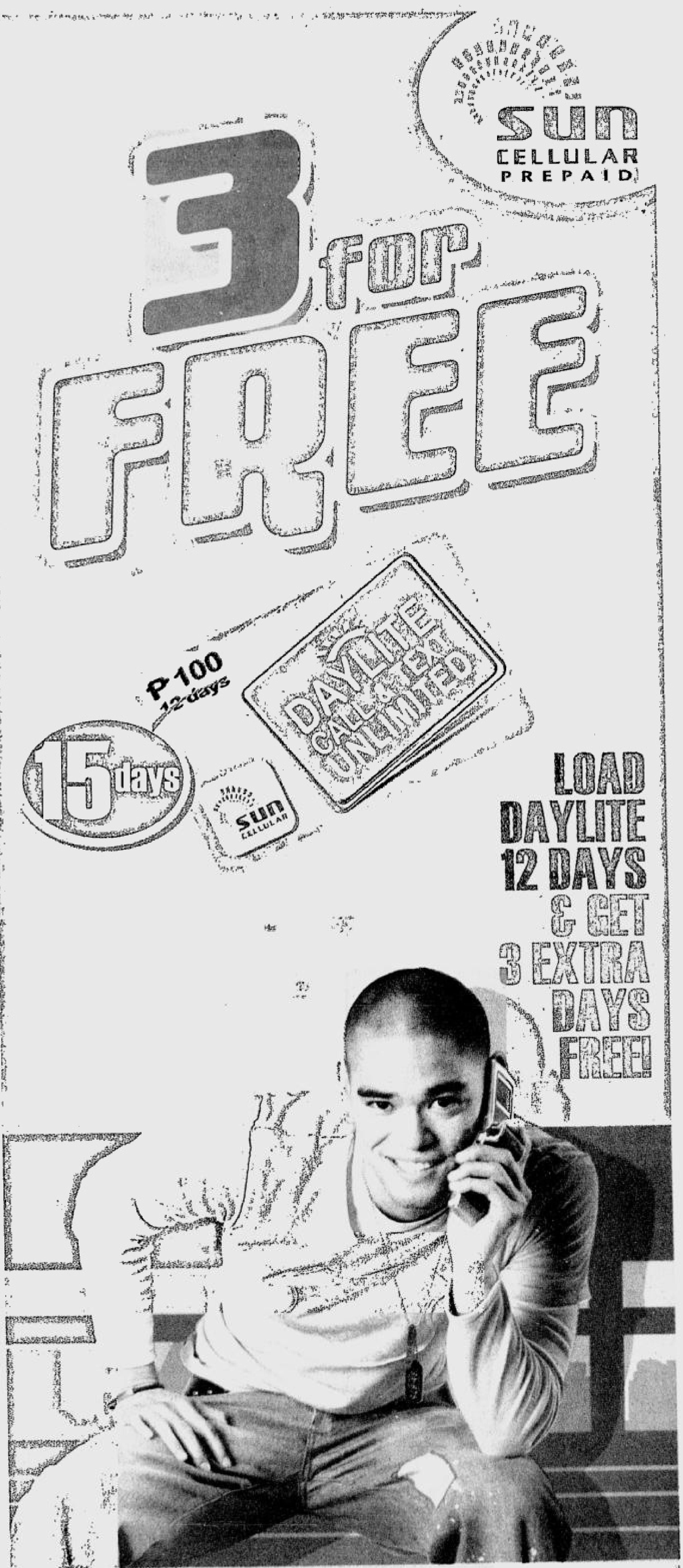
cor. Calderon Street
Little Baguio, San Juan
7261084; 7272196

Piandré Libis
Unit 105 Intrepid Plaza,
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., QC
4377021, 4377028
4377056; 0917-5311245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See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5439 Series of 2005.

CANON for the serious photographer

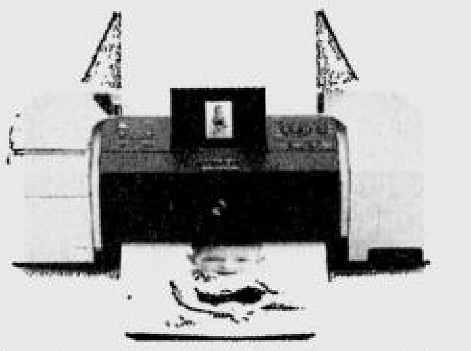
BEIA FORMOSO

SLEEK printer blends well with stylish surroundings.

BEIA FORMOSO

PIXMA printers take center stage at the Canon showroom.

Picture-perfect for life and home



PRINT photos from anywhere in the house with the PIXMA iP6220D with wireless and LAN support.

From page F1

way and just e-mail the pictures to friends or create online photo albums. Hence, photos remain in the digital realm and are least likely to be printed and physically see the light of day, much less get into photo albums and frames.

But there's still something special about holding a photograph in your hand or displaying it in a frame in your living room. Touch isn't the most important of the senses for nothing.

This is where the brilliant and creative minds at Canon step in. After all, with the advent of the digital camera boom, it was only a matter of time before printing photos in the comfort of your own home, or in the convenience of your office, became routine.

Already a pioneer in the photo printer industry, Canon has outdone itself yet again with its latest line of Pixel Maximum or PIXMA series printers that will revolutionize digital photography and change the way you print your photos. Or maybe now you'll finally start printing those photos!

At the recent unveiling in the Canon, Inc. headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, five All-In-One printers, and eight Bubble Jet printers were presented to Asian media. The week-long affair was packed with tours through Canon's offices, showrooms, and history, of Tokyo and other Japan landmarks, as well as parties and carnivals done the Japanese way—with good food, costumes, games and, of course, picture taking.

CANON'S secret room filled with sexy images BEIA FORMOSO

Improved

The new top-of-the-line printers possess Canon's exciting innovation, the ChromaLife100, and improved patented Fine Print Head Technology, plus handy features like camera and memory card direct printing, new dye-ink system, and LCD screens for viewing the photos without the need of a computer.

Introduced in the market back in 1999, Full-photolithography Inkjet Nozzle Engineering or Fine Print Head Technology has been improved by increasing the number of nozzles (tiny holes where the ink ejected from) in the print head, thereby speeding up ink diffusion. Today Canon Pixma printers have the most number of nozzles at 6,144 in a single print head. These nozzles eject a minimum of 2 picolitre (pl) ink droplets for the single function printers and 1 pl for the all-in-one printers (the smallest size ever), in consistent microscopic bubble-like droplets, hence the name "bubble jet printer."

The result is higher printing speed, whereas in the past the unit of measure for printing was referred to pages per minute, or ppm, but with the new Pixma printers, printing time is measured by seconds! Only 36 seconds is all it takes to print a borderless, lab quality photo with the MP800, and up to 55 seconds per photo with the simplest model, the iP1600. However, these are not solely photo printers, even the speed for printing text or word documents has greatly increased.

And without compromising quality, producing photos of astounding clarity with resolutions of 4800 x 2400 dpi to as much as 9600 x 2400 dpi, or dots per inch. The higher the dots per inch, the better the resolution, the clearer and nicer the photo.

But how long will the photos last before they start to fade? Thanks to their new ChromaLife100 system, a combination of ink and media (Photo Paper Pro/Photo Paper Plus Glossy) that sets the beauty and permanence of printed images and makes it so they will resist color fading, photos printed using the new Pixma printers can last up to 100 years in perfect condition. Canon conducted extensive tests to perfect ChromaLife100 based on common uses/displays of photo, such as lightfastness for when the photo is placed in a photo frame behind glass or plastic, gasfastness when it is out in the open with no covering, and for both at the same time when inside a photo album facing high temperatures, no light, and atmospheric gases.

The problem, though, with places with high climates and humidity, such as our own country, is ink migration or bleeding. Canon also tested for high temperature and humidity, and the photos retained sharp details without any bleeding or color changes.

Ink was likewise improved upon with a new high-density dye-base that reduces smearing for sharper images and text.

Smart Led ink tank system also alerts you when the cartridge is running low or empty or was placed in the wrong spot, without you having to turn on the PC. Printing mistakes, ink contamination and empty cartridges are a thing of the past.

User-friendly

The printers come with the Easy PhotoPrint software program, which boasts of user-friendliness, swiftness and creativity. If there's need to resize or adjust your photos in Adobe anymore, Canon can do it for you automatically. You can add borders, drawings, icons and readily create a photo album or scrapbook since most of the printers come with Two-Way Paper Feeding and Auto Duplex Printing (prints on both sides of the paper at the same time).

The All-In-One Pixma printers, namely the MP800, MP500, MP450, MP170 and MP150 carry those two features and more: direct printing even from CD, and DVD and wireless mediums like cellular phone; and directly print photos from your camera or memory card directly onto a CD or DVD, without a computer.

MP800, the ultimate PIXMA All-in-One Printer, comes with a 3.5-inch LCD and film scanner.

They also print Photo Index Sheets where you indicate which photos you want printed, the number of copies and the type of layout by just marking the appropriate boxes on the sheet and scan it. Your chosen photos will be printed automatically. There is also a photo/film reprint button that allows you to make reprints instantly.

Not only do they print photo and documents, they also scan and copy color and black-and-white photographs.

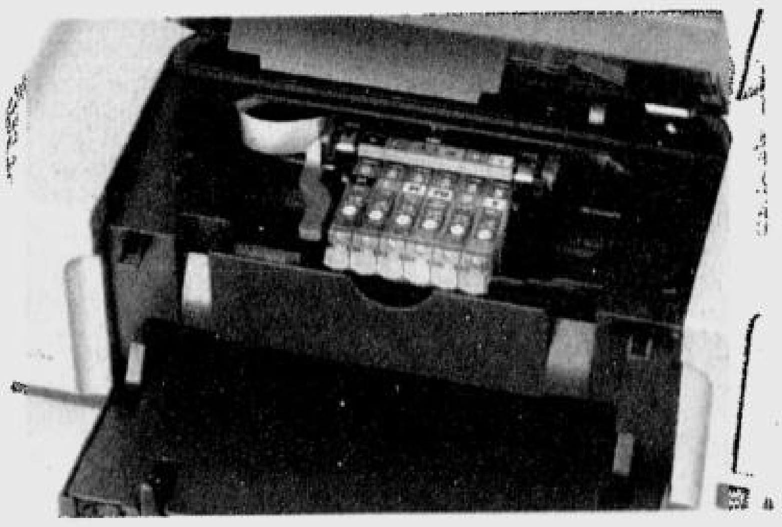
The title of ultimate printer goes to the MP800, the professional photo all-in-one printer that has a built-in film scanner and a 3.5-inch color LCD viewer.

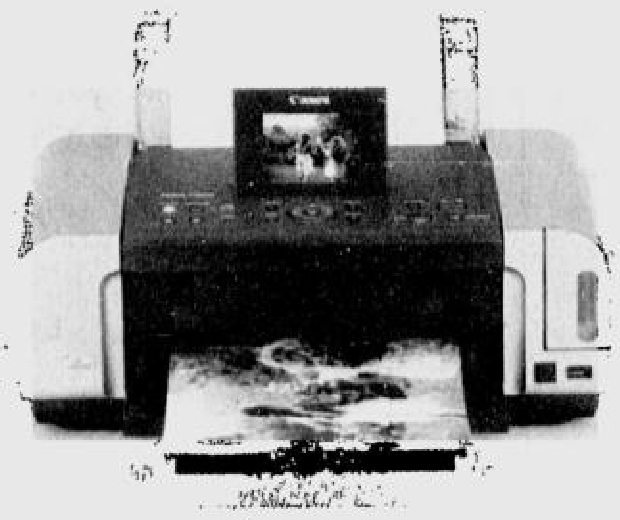
The Single Function Pixma printers, on the other hand, are models of simplicity yet providing superior printing quality. The iP6600D, iP6220D, iP6210D, iP5200R, iP5200, iP4200, iP2200 and iP1600 come in sleek compact designs perfect for home users and students.

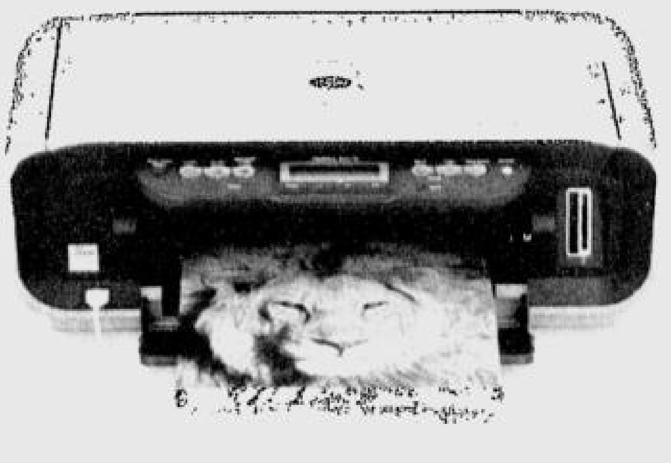
The printer best suited for you depends on your lifestyle and how serious you are about photography. From budget printers that offer great functionality to the advanced multipurpose printers, all providing the latest and utmost quality in photo and document printing, there is definitely a Canon Pixma printer that is right for you.

So now, thanks to Canon, photos will no longer take long to print and come out in poor quality. And, now, home-printed photos can last and remain beautiful throughout the years.

CANON'S new Smart LED ink tanks put an end to printing mistakes and ink contamination.







MP170 (left), a photo and document printer, scanner and copier all in one, is all you need; (further left) cutting edge printer IP6600D

Across Mindanao: The SMART Entrepreneurial Program

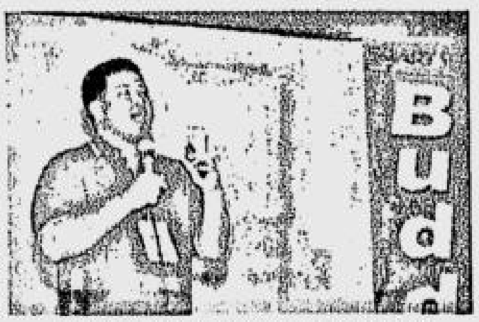
Mindanao is second largest island in the Philippines. Here, progress is happening at a fast pace. World class road networks connect provinces for convenient travel, and the abundant natural resources of the region is almost untouched and teeming with life.

For the thousands of students in Mindanao, education is a priority. It is one of the surest ways to a better life. Imagine then how unfortunate it is that a majority of graduates cannot find suitable employment in their own cities. Many leave to go to the Visayas or Luzon where job opportunities are seemingly greater. For those who choose to stay, however, starting their own business is almost the only solution left. SMART PCMSD Head Boy Martirez says that "SEP opens up students to the new realities in the job market and introduces them to the opportunity of entrepreneurship.".

The SMART Entrepreneurial Program (SEP) toured Zamboanga and Misamis Occidental to share some good news with college students. There is an alternative to employment. Entrepreneurship can fill the void and help create opportunities lacking in the workplace. With the help of established members of the community, stories of hope were shared and practical business tips discussed. How do you start your own business? This is what the hundreds of SEP students in Mindanao found an answer to.

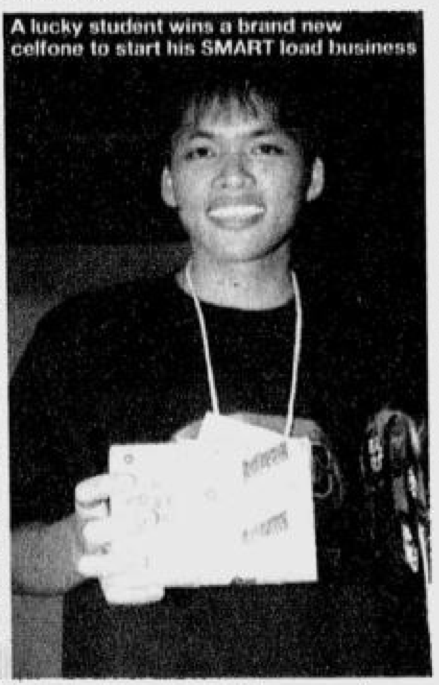
SEP DIPOLOG

Ms. Thelma Alvarez, SMART Area Manager for Western Mindanao, receives a plaque of appreciation with Ms. Trixie Ylaya for giving the SEP Module

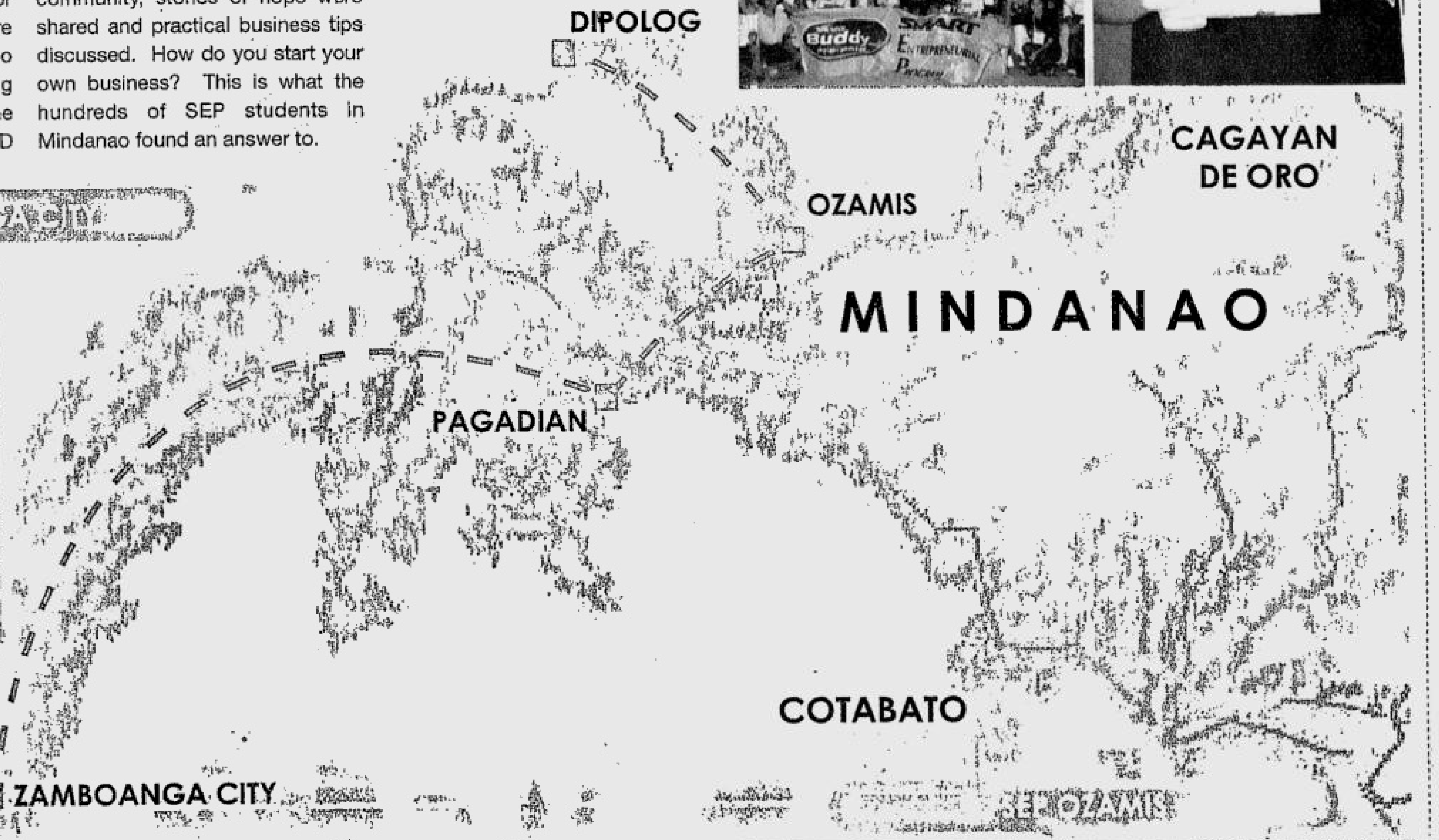


Mr. Julius Salaverla of DTI presents the "How to Start a Business" Module

More than 500 students from 9 schools made SEP Dipolog a success

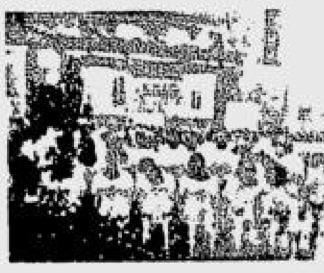


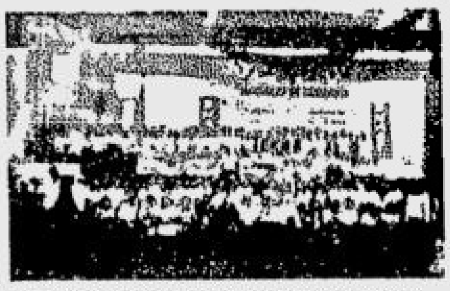
A lucky student wins a brand new cellfone to start his SMART load business



SEP ZAMBOANGA CITY

350 students register for the 1-day seminar





Universidad de Zamboanga hosts the event

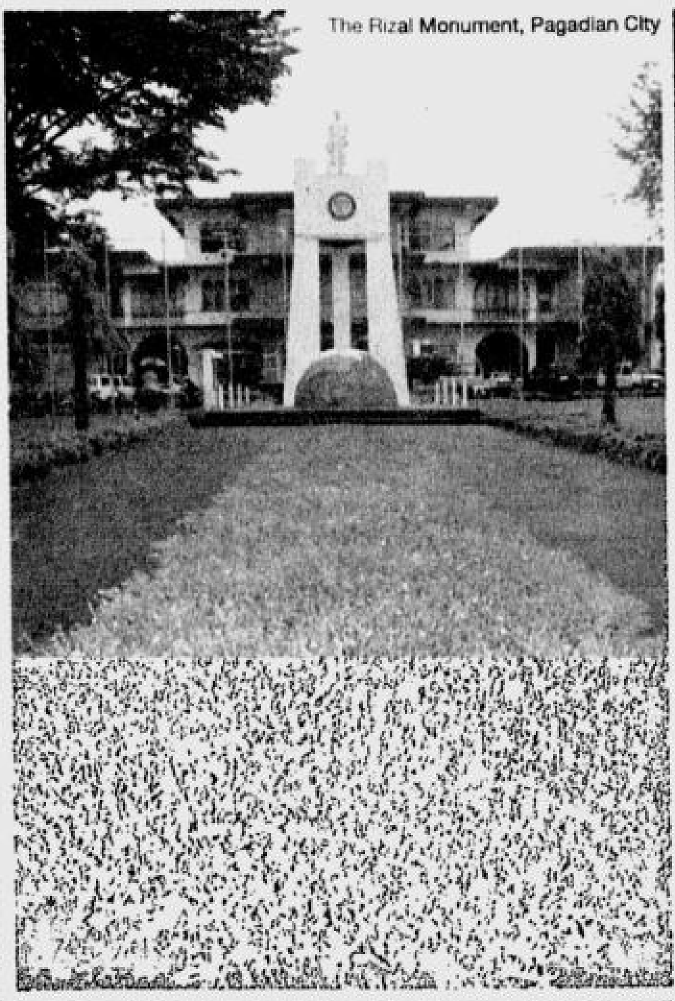
SEP OZAMIS

Casa Esperanza welcomes the 142 attendees

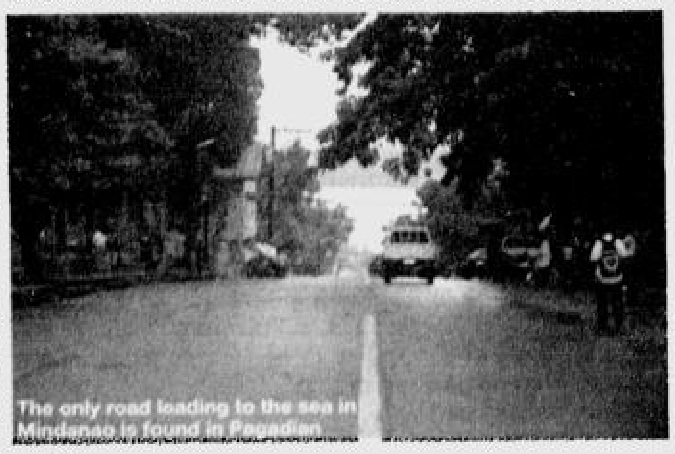
Ms. Vanessa Besana of SMART Ozamis shares her success story as a student agent

Students from 4 schools support SEP Ozamis

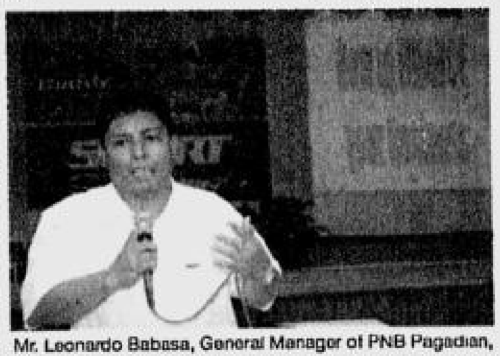
SEP PAGADIAN



The Rizal Monument, Pagadian City



The only road leading to the sea in Mindanao is found in Pagadian



Mr. Leonardo Babasa, General Manager of PNB Pagadian, presents the "How to Finance a Business" Module

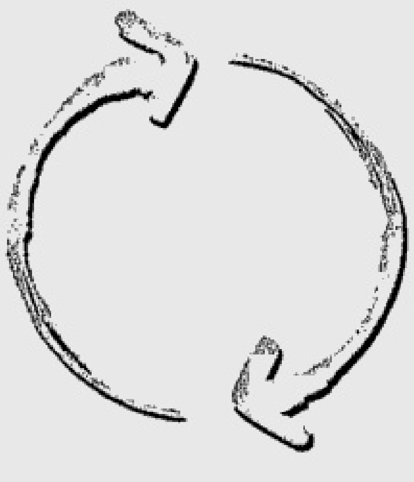
SEP Pagadian at Liga City

Dulce Villanueva receives a premium item from SMART

SMART Student Agents (Riza Taylaran, Sarah Enquito, Rosemarie Taylaran and Elmer Pasague) volunteer at the registration table

SMART
Simply Amazing!

It's not just about the innovations we bring...

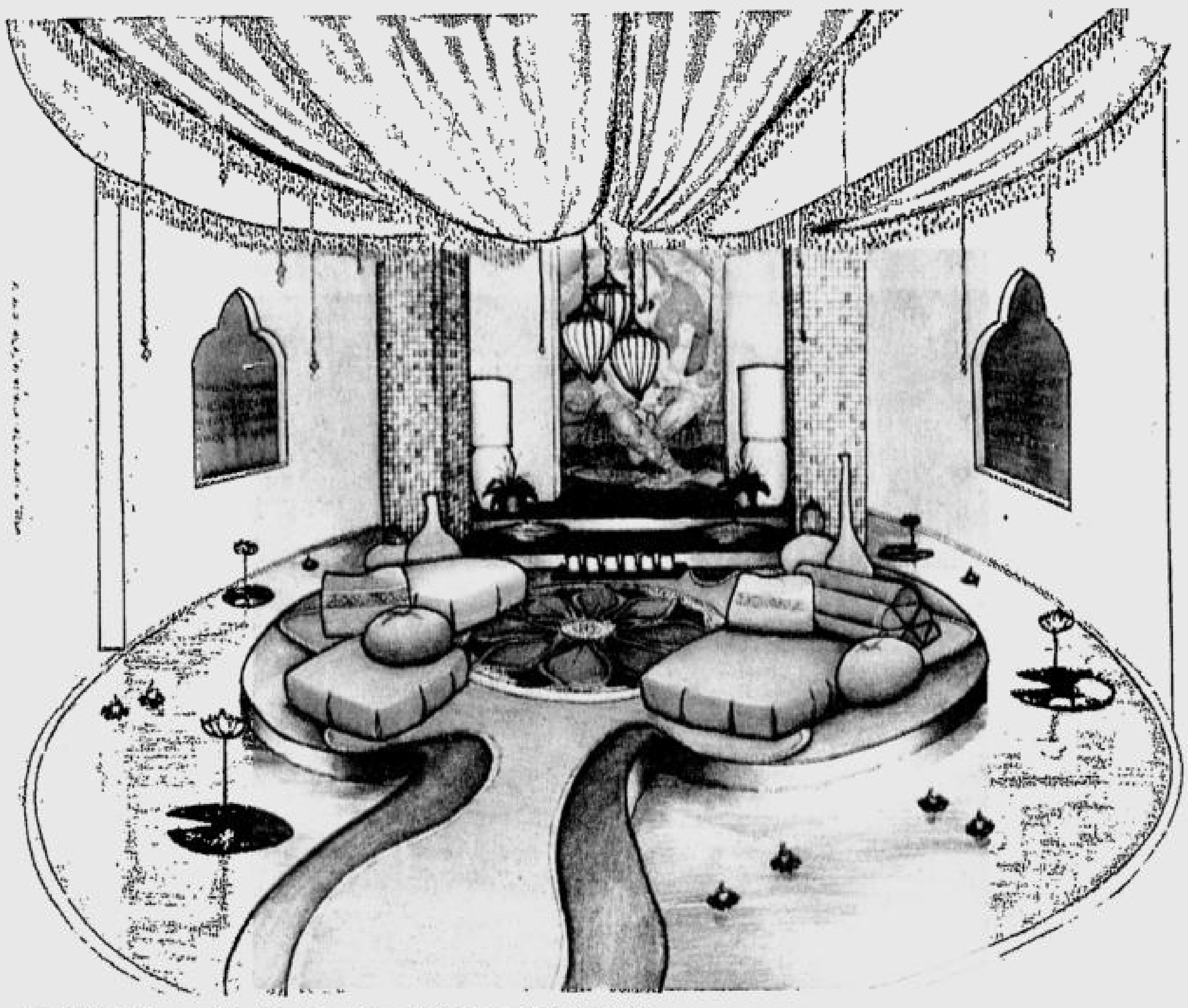


It's about the opportunities we provide.

Manny on Entrepreneurship

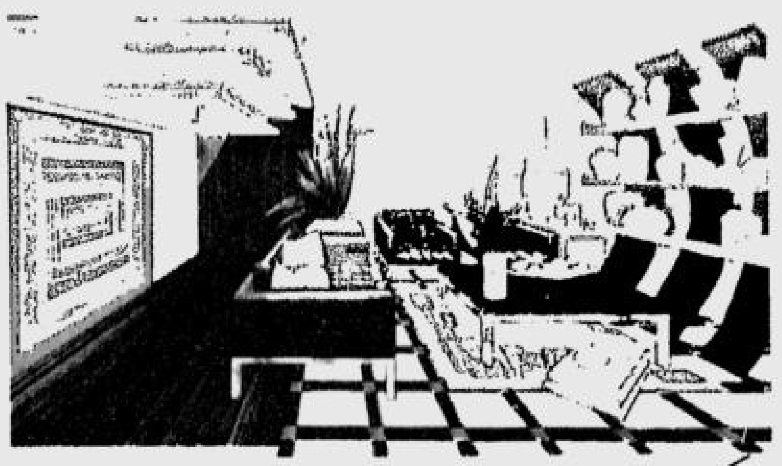
"Businesses do transform societies. They not only shape our physical and our virtual worlds, but also create new needs, new hopes, and new dreams."

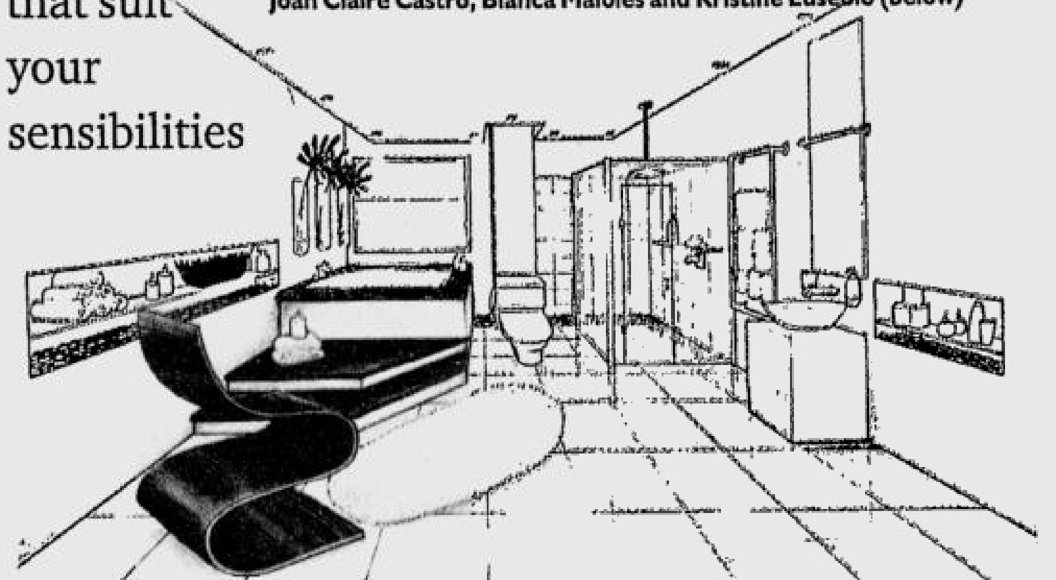
--Manuel V. Pangilinan
PLDT and SMART Chairman



"DHANYA" (sensual) by Bie Magalong, Carlo Loo and Aynns Tan

Interior design aspirants double as Rorscharch testers to execute designs that suit your sensibilities





"URBAN Nest" (urban) by Jora Occeno, Jenalyn de la Paz, Tuesday Tuazon and Gerard la Rossa (above). "La Pura Classica" (pure) by Joan Claire Castro, Bianca Maloles and Kristine Eusebio (below)

The psychology of design

By Alex Y. Vergara

DO YOU GO FOR WALLS WITH SOLID colors or would you rather have your bedrooms painted in a rainbow of shades? Are you saving up for the sleek Italian sofa or are you willing to settle for the cheaper one-of-a-kind chair that doubles as a sculptural piece? Do you find solace in rattan and wicker or would you rather luxuriate in leather and hardwood?

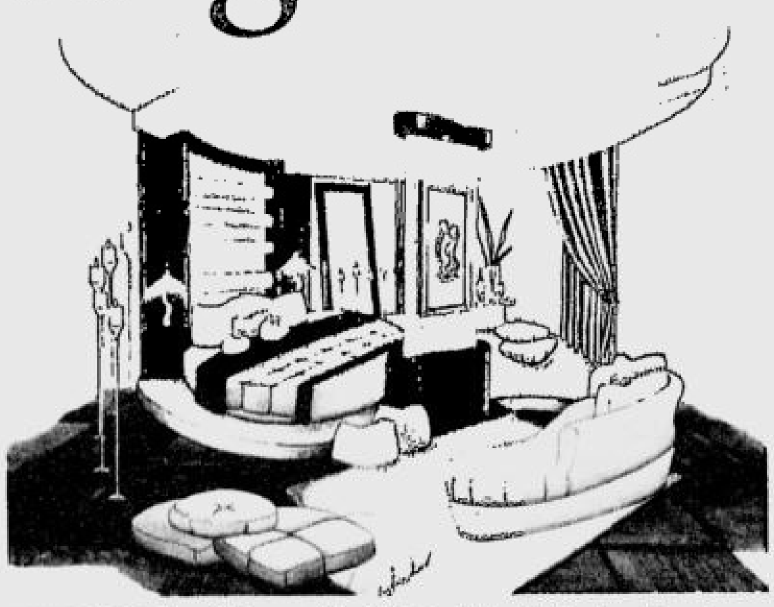
Your choices will ultimately reveal your "design personality." If you're still in the dark as to what it is, this year's graduating students of the Philippine School of Interior Design can help you find out.

PSID will mark its 38th year with a graduation exhibit dubbed as "PSID Gets Personal" at Greenbelt 1 in Makati. The month-long event opens Oct. 1. Admission is free.

The school's annual shows have always been much-awaited events for both people within and outside the industry. Jie Pambid, the school's dean and overall exhibit adviser, believes that this year's edition (the 26th of its kind since it began in 1979) will no less be exciting.

"This year's exhibit will be a notch higher than previous exhibits," says Pambid. "Apart from the design perspective, we will offer visitors a psychological perspective."

For one, Pambid promises to come up with an "interactive" show. Each guest will be asked to answer a series of matching-type questions before they make their way to the exhibit area. Apart from determining a person's preferences, such questions are designed to reveal glimpses of his or her design personality.



"SENSUAL Solace" (sensual) by Kristine Vela, Toi Santos, Angelo Victorio, Jeng Ubando, Joseph Averion and Nette Oyales.

Based on the results of the 10-minute test, Pambid and company can now classify whether the respondent's design sensibilities are pure, laid-back, sensual, bohemian, urban or wild. These traits have also become the inspiration behind the works of this year's batch of graduates.

"Each graduating student also underwent the test," says Pambid. "This doesn't mean, however, that all those grouped under bohemian would work on such a theme."

Part of the school's training is to hone its students to rise above their individual preferences. It will definitely serve them well in the near future as they deal with all sorts of clients.

Of the 22 booths divided into six design personality types, four are grouped under pure, three under laid-back, four under sensual, four under bohemian, three under urban and four under wild.

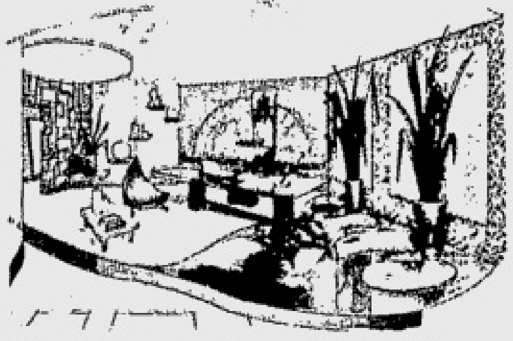
This year's 100-member graduating class are grouped anywhere from three to six persons. So as to give the public variety, students working on a particular category weren't only grouped, but further assigned to do a specific area of the house. In other words, there will be no two bedrooms or living rooms within the same category.

And unlike in the past when students drew inspiration from real and famous people, this year's batch will have to rely mainly on their imagination and from what they've learned in school. The exhibit, which doubles as a thesis, is the last of many requirements students have to hurdle.

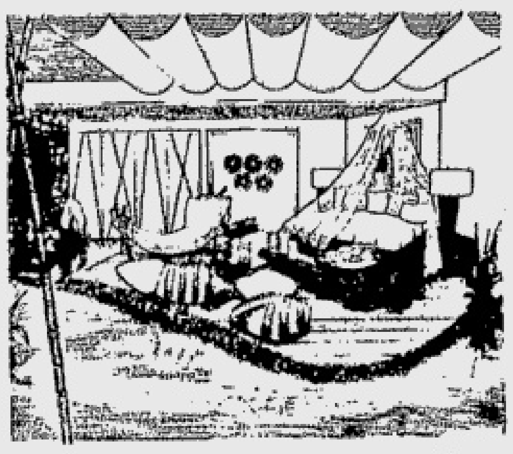
Although the school got generous sponsors to provide graduating hopefuls with certain raw materials and furniture pieces, students still had to raise money or solicit from other sponsors to enable them to realize their visions.

Pambid and his colleagues take pride in the fact that PSID has a reputation for producing some of the best interior designers in the country. Through the years, he says, the school has also raised the bar as far as exhibits go.

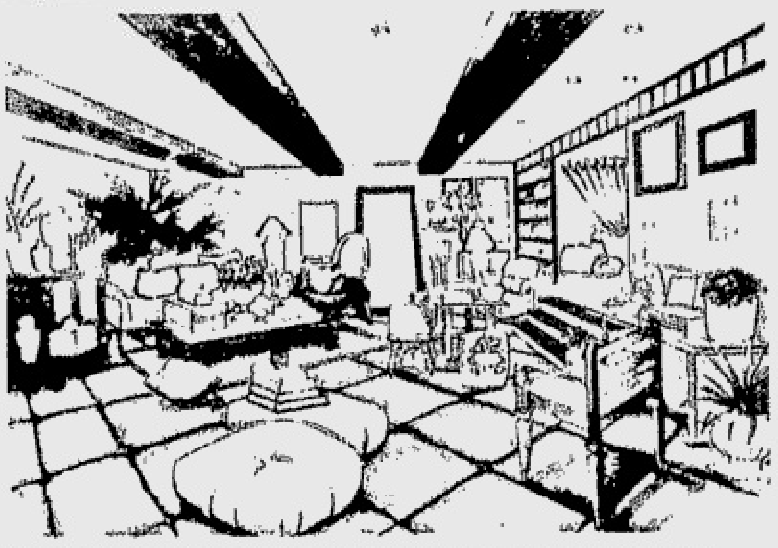
"Studio sets have no place here," he adds. "Our students are required to do real and permanent living spaces. I'm sure not a few of them will cry once they start dismantling their work. For me it's not the end, but a transition everyone has to go through."



"1.618 (The Divine Proportion)" (wild) by Karen Ang, Clarabelle Cua, Irene Rivera and Mansly Kimhoko.



"BUM Shelter" (laid-back) by Ian Santillan, Cat Coronel and Sasa Coronel



"UNION of Worlds" (bohemian) by Kat Bautista, Nats Lobregat, Mark See and Pam Bondad.

Aside from commending his students for being resourceful, Pambid is also amazed at their rich imagination. It has become an annual practice at PSID to hold a contest among seniors to inspire them to come up with fresh themes. This year's winner is Jamieson Tan.

Pambid, a medicine student before he shifted to interior design, welcomed such a theme more so since he took up psychology as a premed course. He fine-tuned Tan's idea and formulated the questionnaire, which runs the entire gamut, from relationships, to favorite concert acts, to favorite divas.

So who would you like to listen to (and perhaps jam with) Patti Austin, Gwen Stefani, J.Lo, Mariah Carey, Norah Jones, or Madonna? The country's future interior designers eagerly await your choice.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Building exhibit and workshops

HANDYMAN Do It Center and Handyman Do It Best Home Center, the largest and fastest-growing network in the hardware and home improvement (DIY) trade, celebrates "Builders Fair" from Sept. 28-Oct. 2, at the Activity Area, Level 1 of Robinsons Place in Pioneer, Mandaluyong.

Exhibits, promo and free workshops, geared toward acknowledging the importance of the "business of building," will be the highlights of the six-day trade event.

To be featured are product exhibits of Automotive, Bathroom, Hardware and Plumbing, Lighting, Paints and Chemical, Power Tools, Water Tanks, Safes, Flooring, Polycarbonate sheets, Roofing and other leading brands in the building, construction and maintenance industry.

During the event, a "Partners in Building" VIP card will be issued exclusively for builders, contractors and designers so they can better enjoy the wide range of genuine quality products at Handyman.

To avail of the VIP card, present a professional ID card upon registration at the Builders Fair. This privilege card, valid for all regular-priced items only, will entitle the bearer to a five-percent discount at Handyman Do It Center branches in Robinsons Place-Pioneer, Robinsons Place-Novaliches and Robinsons Starmills-Pampanga until December following certain conditions.

Customers and visitors are also invited to the free workshops, which include Bosch's "How to make your own buffet cart" (Sept. 17); Black & Decker's "How to assemble a planter and tool box" (Sept. 24); Charter Davies' "Paint like a Pro and other painting techniques" (Sept. 30); HCG's "Basic water closet troubleshooting" and Black & Decker's "How to make a magazine rack" (Oct. 1); and Commander Auto Supply's "Auto maintenance 101" and Bosch's "How to make your own toy chest" (Oct. 2).

Registration is on a first-come-first served basis. Visit www.handyman.com.ph

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New transport system needed

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT AIR POLLUTION inevitably brings to mind the hard-headedness of humans who fail to realize that such pollution results from the continued use of fossil fuels (oil and coal) for their vehicles. And once discussions go into the area of fossil fuels, the issues of global warming and climate change inevitably take center stage.

This is because, as we've often been told, such pollution is the reason why the Earth's atmosphere is warming up and why, as a result, natural disasters are already wreaking havoc on life and property in several areas of the world (example: New Orleans, United States).

And yet, it is the economic aspects of rising oil prices that seem to get the most attention, not the risks involved in the continued use of oil.

One Filipino who believes the continued use of fossil fuel is contributing to global warming is environmental lawyer and untiring green crusader Antonio S. Oposa Jr. He recently attended the ceremonial signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to implement the citizen's suit provision of the Clean Air Act. The provision allows ordinary citizens to sue for violation of the law.

This must have inspired him to put his thoughts on this particular subject on paper, and to send them to media with a tongue-in-cheek title, "The Price of Oil Is Too Cheap."

It is cheap, he says, because at its current (as of this writing) price of US$65 per barrel, people still don't feel the pinch. Perhaps, it is only when it goes up to, say, US$650 a barrel that "people will begin to seriously think of less expensive—and less dirty—alternative modes of locomotion." For Oposa, "price is the best conservationist."

Solutions

He not only speaks and writes about this issue, he also offers doable solutions. Oposa may have already presented these solutions to print media but they are worth repeating.

His foremost solution: stop using fossil fuel to go from one point to another. The advantage of putting a stop to its use, he says, is that we won't have to import expensive oil, thus boosting the Philippine economy.

There are other obvious reasons why we should stop burning expensive oil: it causes serious damage to the air and to the tender hearts and lungs of Filipino children which should be the first concern of all. Then, there is the "absurdity" of Filipinos aping the American-style of individual mobility, considering that Philippine roads are too narrow compared to those broad avenues in the US.

Instead of burning oil we can ill-afford, and paving the roads with concrete, Oposa says the little (but rich) land we have could be better used for vegetation and food production. And, together with that, a collective transportation system could be set up, one that would use vehicles that do not rely on non-renewable fossil fuels as source of energy.

A deep understanding of this fact will facilitate the development of subsequent steps.

Modified roads

The first steps to take, Oposa says, involves the physical modification of the road system. This means concrete on one half of the road must be broken up and turned into a greenbelt to be known as a "vegetation corridor."

The remaining part of the road will also be broken up into four parts: a wide first lane for pedestrian use; a second lane for bicycles; a third lane for a Filipino-designed collective transport system whose standard is based on safety and passenger-friendly enough for children to use. A fourth lane must be reserved for emergency vehicles like police cars, ambulances, fire trucks and the like.

Private cars could be allowed entry into the commercial/business district (CBD) after a "congestion fee" is paid (say, P5,000 per entry) to help defray road maintenance expenses.

With more space for vegetation and green spots along the roads, there will be cleaner and cooler air. The greenbelt area can also be used for food production and employment generation. Unemployed people in certain areas can plant, say, organic vegetables to supply the city's needs.

Oposa's suggestions are simple enough and can be easily accomplished if people set their minds to it and government officials lend their support all the way. Filipinos are known to be creative people. Let's prove it once again.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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SEA PRINCESS
in Amanpulo /H6

Girls just wanna have fun

It's a feel-good day for breast cancer survivors on Sept. 25 when I Can Serve Foundation holds its forum

CARLA Paras-Sison, Bibeth Orteza, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala and Dayday David

RODEL ROTONI

FOR THE FIRST TIME, BREAST cancer survivors and support groups will have a full day of inspiration, education and relaxation when the I Can Serve Foundation mounts the nationwide "Silver Linings" breast cancer forum on Sept. 25 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The breast cancer community of survivors from different parts of the country (and some from overseas) will go online to lend support, including celebrities like actress-movie/TV writer Bibeth Orteza, philanthropist Bettina Osmeña, actress Maritoni Fernandez and many other familiar names. The need to inform is urgent as the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Southeast Asia.

A "Gratitude Wall" will exhibit letters, insights and musings of breast cancer survivors, including works of art that have helped them through their journey towards healing.

The activities lined up for the day include both emotional and practical sessions.

Topics for the whole-day event and their speakers include:

- Breast Cancer 101 (Dr. Francis Lopez and Dr. Mark Kho)
- How to start and sustain a support group (Dr. Isabel Melgar)
- How to raise funds (Marian Quebral)
- How Rio Diaz and her family found support in each other
- Dos and don'ts of setting up hospice care (Susan Reyes and Dr. Rhodora Campos)

Roche-sponsored activities

- Healing of body, mind and spirit (Tonton Santos)
- Spiritual Healing (Maribe Garcia and Fr. Efren Borromeo)
- Qi Gong (Michelle Magsaysay)
- Proper Nutrition (Susan Villaroman and Dr. Kelly Salvador)
- How the other half copes (Jim Paredes and Carlitos Siguion Reyna)

HRD (Hair Reconstruction Devices) activities

- Wig demo and haircut
- Imaging: How to Look Good and Feel Good (Abbygale Arenas and Lia Bernardo)

Big C activities

- Carcinogenics—How Carcinogens in the Environment Contribute to Cancer (Dr. Becky Singson)
- Nutrition and South Beach Diet (Rachel and Barny Alejandro)
- Grief Counseling (Cathy Guballa, Myrna Borromeo)
- How Families Cope (Honey Carandang)

Hosts for each activity include Bibeth Orteza, Karen Davila, Ces Drilon, Cherie Gil, Maritoni Fernandez, Cecille Alvarez, Rachel Alejandro, Chiqui Roa, Cathy Tanco Ong and Dr. Rachel Rosario.

Free consultation throughout the day will be provided by I Can Serve patient advocates and cancer doctors led by Dr. Diana Cua and Dr. Barbara Domingo.

Rustan's Cosmetics and Toiletries has offered support through a donation of Essenses products for participants who register early.

HSBC Red MasterCard is hosting the registration of its cardholders.

"Silver Linings" has been made possible by friends of I Can Serve Foundation namely: Roche Phils., Hair Reconstruction Devices (HRD), Bristol Myers, Pagcor, PCSO, HSBC, Pfizer, Manila Bank, San Miguel Corporation, Bridges@Com Ideas & Strategies, Virma Vergel de Dios, Bangge Mabanta, Sen. and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, Dr. Vicki Belo and Andres Soriano Foundation.

Entrance fee is a donation of P100, which includes refreshments for the first 300 registrants plus participation in all activities.

Founded by cancer survivor Kara Magsanoc Alikpala, I Can Serve is an advocacy group that links cancer survivors and their families to sources of information and hope when cancer invades their lives. E-mail and telephone hotlines are manned by volunteer cancer survivors to entertain callers in need of information and compassion.

In order to promote continuing education, I Can Serve conducts symposia, publishes books, and creates television campaigns and fundraising projects.

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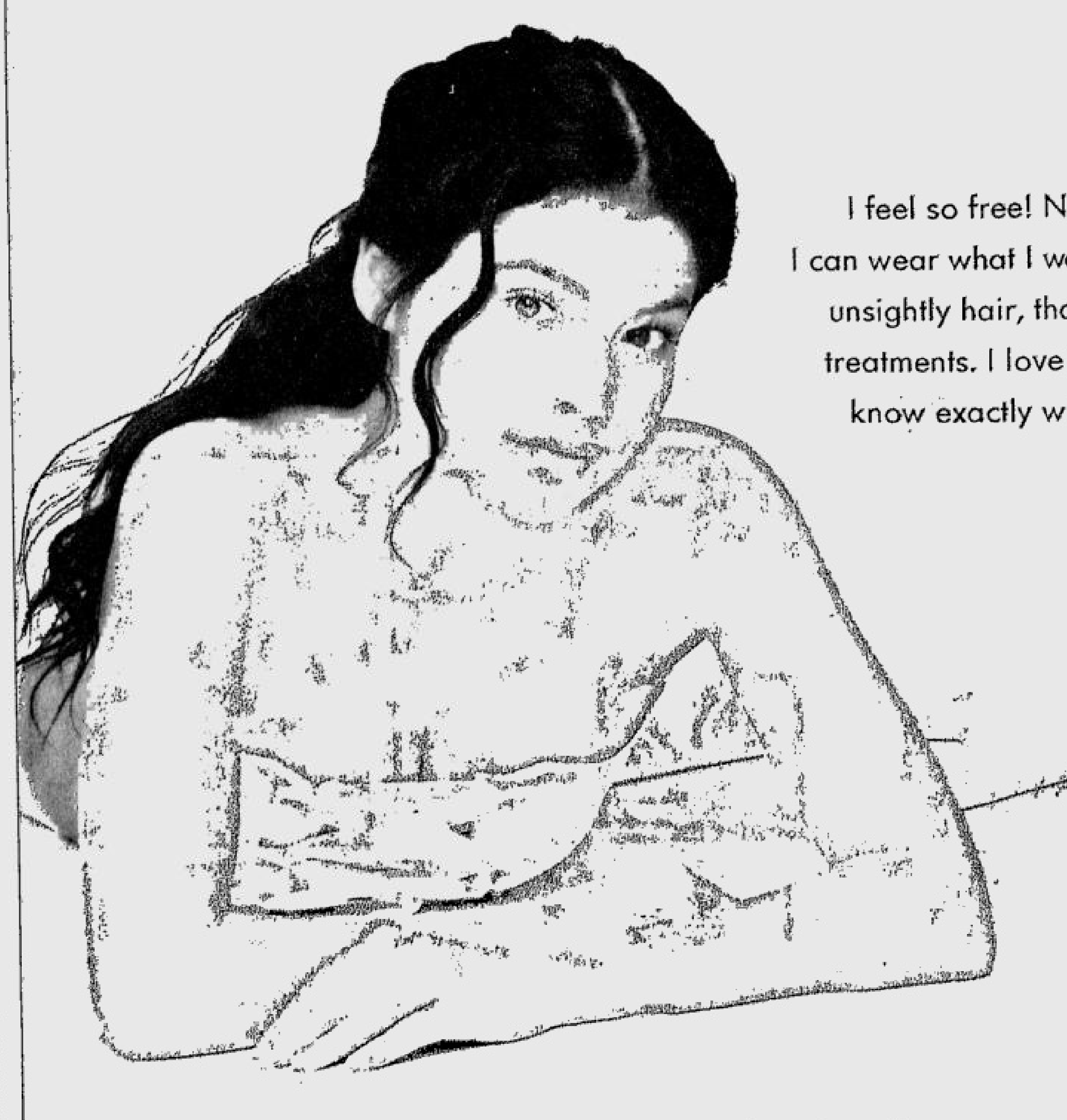

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Anne Curtis
Anne Curtis
Actress

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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

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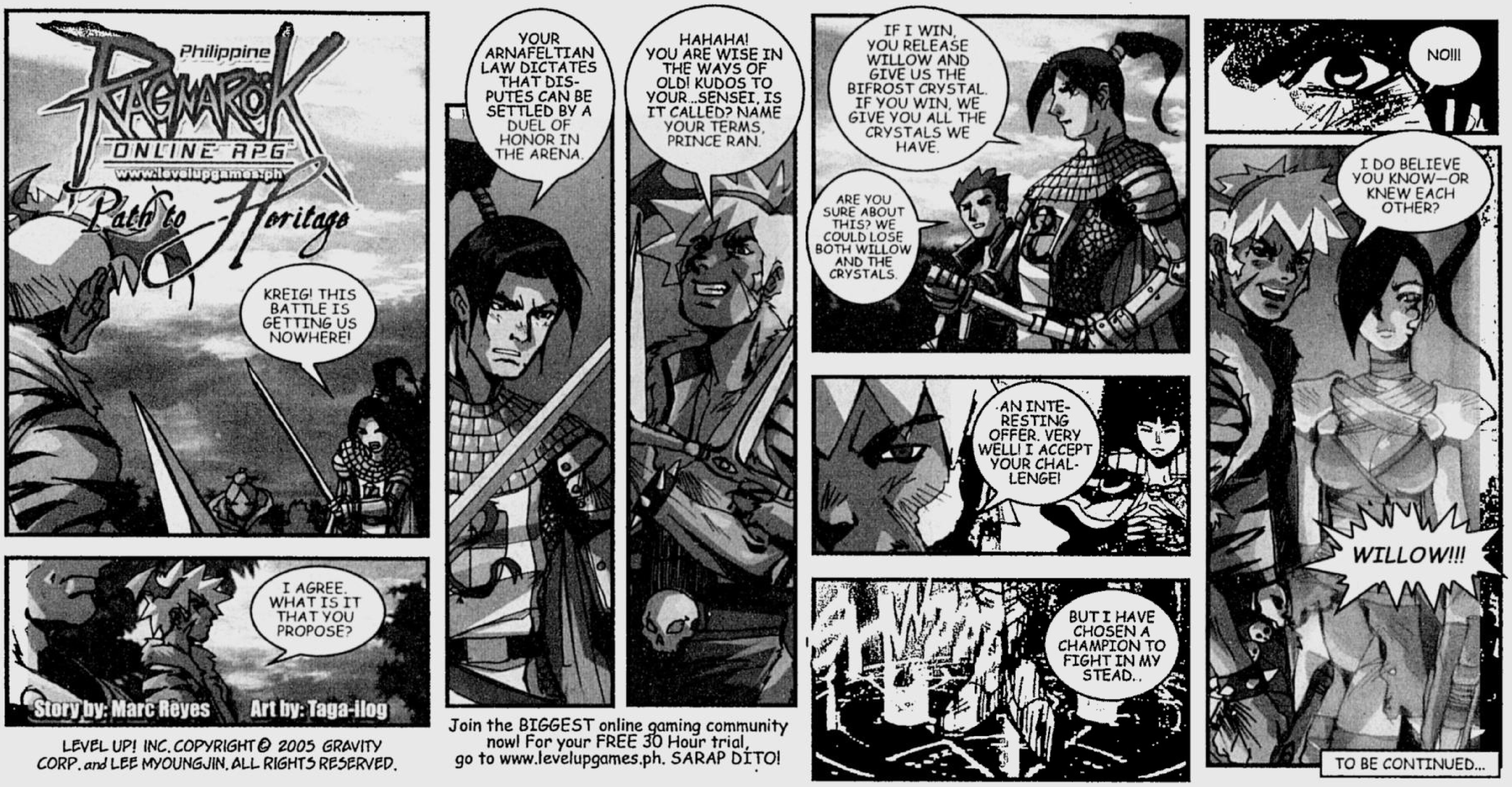
FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

RAGNAROK

BY MARC REYES & TAGA-ILOG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Path to Heritage
KREIG! THIS BATTLE IS GETTING US NOWHERE!
I AGREE. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU PROPOSE?
Story by: Marc Reyes
Art by: Taga-ilog
YOUR ARNAFELTIAN LAW DICTATES THAT DISPUTES CAN BE SETTLED BY A DUEL OF HONOR IN THE ARENA.
HAHAHA! YOU ARE WISE IN THE WAYS OF OLD! KUDOS TO YOUR...SENSEI, IS IT CALLED? NAME YOUR TERMS, PRINCE RAN.
IF I WIN, YOU RELEASE WILLOW AND GIVE US THE BIFROST CRYSTAL. IF YOU WIN, WE GIVE YOU ALL THE CRYSTALS WE HAVE.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? WE COULD LOSE BOTH WILLOW AND THE CRYSTALS.
AN INTERESTING OFFER. VERY WELL! I ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE!
BUT I HAVE CHOSEN A CHAMPION TO FIGHT IN MY STEAD..
NO!!!
I DO BELIEVE YOU KNOW—OR KNEW EACH OTHER?
WILLOW!!!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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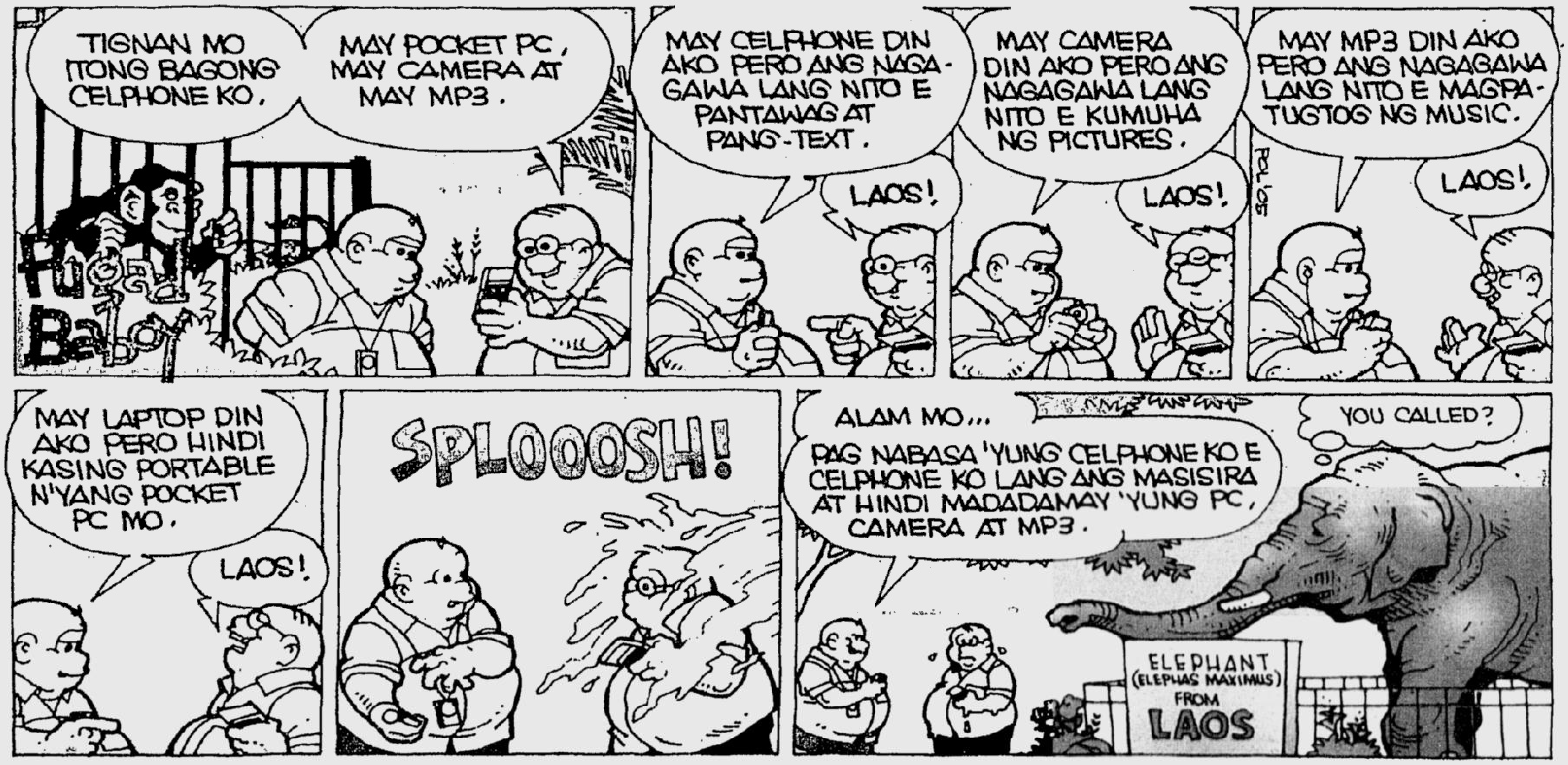
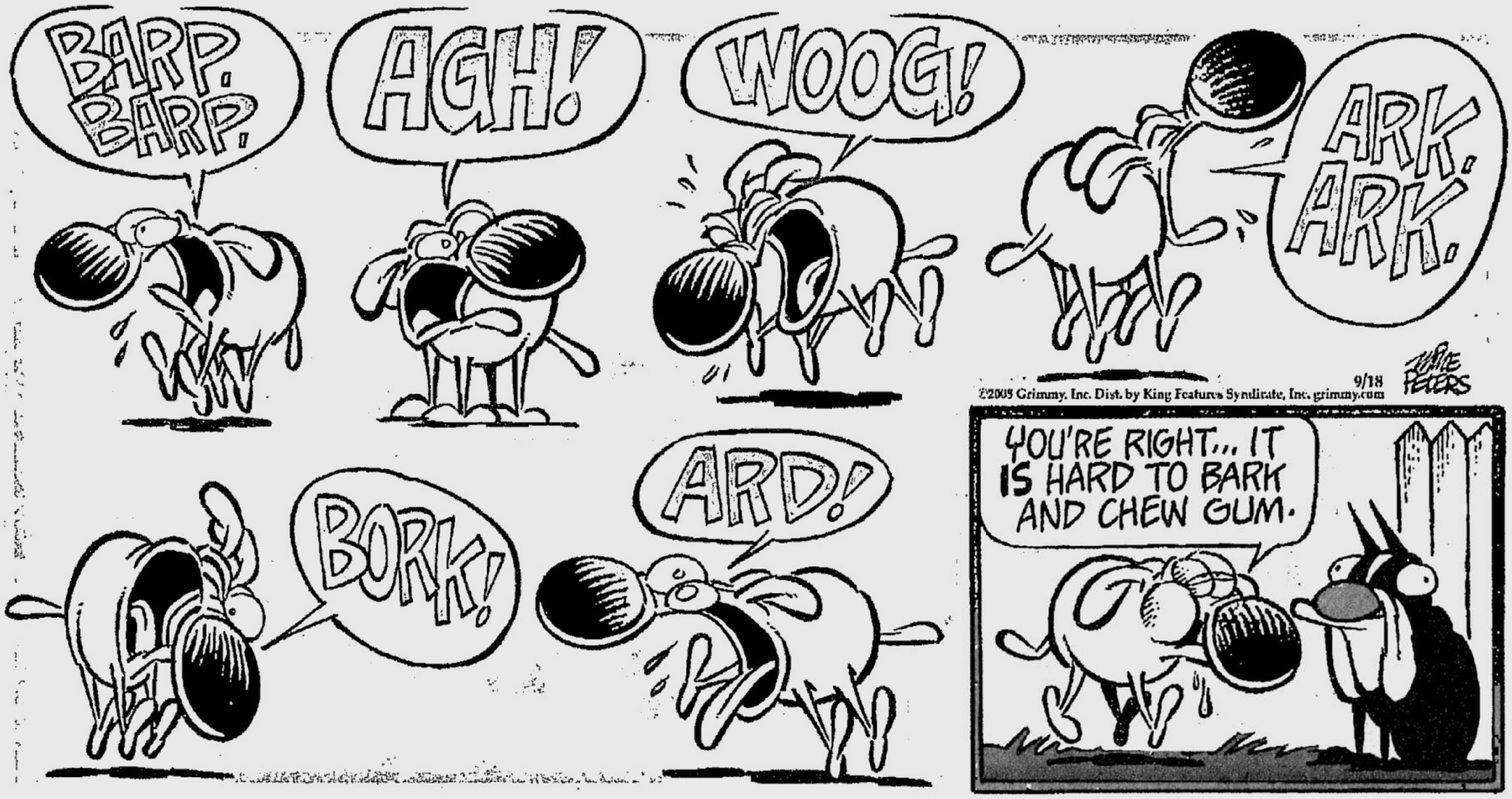
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
TIGNAN MO ITONG BAGONG CELPHONE KO.
MAY POCKET PC, MAY CAMERA AT MAY MP3.
MAY CELPHONE DIN AKO PERO ANG NAGAGAWA LANG NITO E PANTAWAG AT PANG-TEXT.
LAOS!
MAY CAMERA DIN AKO PERO ANG NAGAGAWA LANG NITO E KUMUHA NG PICTURES.
LAOS!
POL '05
MAY MP3 DIN AKO PERO ANG NAGAGAWA LANG NITO E MAGPATUGTOG NG MUSIC.
LAOS!
MAY LAPTOP DIN AKO PERO HINDI KASING PORTABLE N'YANG POCKET PC MO.
LAOS!
SPLOOOSH!
ALAM MO...
PAG NABASA 'YUNG CELPHONE KO E CELPHONE KO LANG ANG MASISIRA AT HINDI MADADAMAY 'YUNG PC, CAMERA AT MP3.
YOU CALLED?
ELEPHANT (ELEPHAS MAXIMUS) FROM LAOS

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


BARP. BARP.
AGH!
WOOG!
ARK, ARK.
BORK!
ARD!
YOU'RE RIGHT... IT IS HARD TO BARK AND CHEW GUM.
9/18
MIKE PETERS

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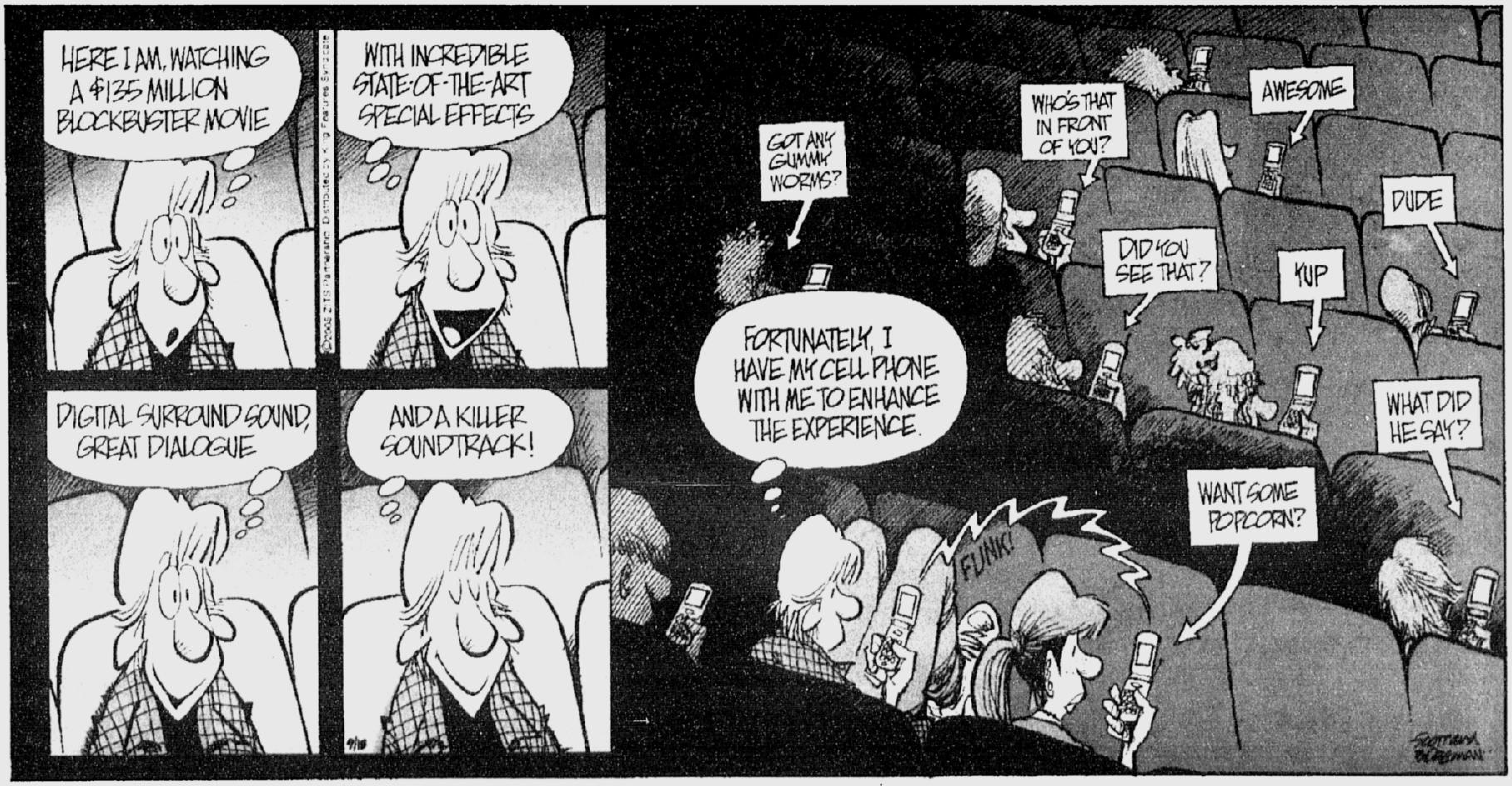
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


HERE I AM, WATCHING A $135 MILLION BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE
WITH INCREDIBLE STATE-OF-THE-ART SPECIAL EFFECTS
DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND, GREAT DIALOGUE
AND A KILLER SOUNDTRACK!
GOT ANY GUMMY WORMS?
WHO'S THAT IN FRONT OF YOU?
AWESOME
DUDE
DID YOU SEE THAT?
YUP
FORTUNATELY, I HAVE MY CELL PHONE WITH ME TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE.
WHAT DID HE SAY?
WANT SOME POPCORN?
FLINK!
9/18
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

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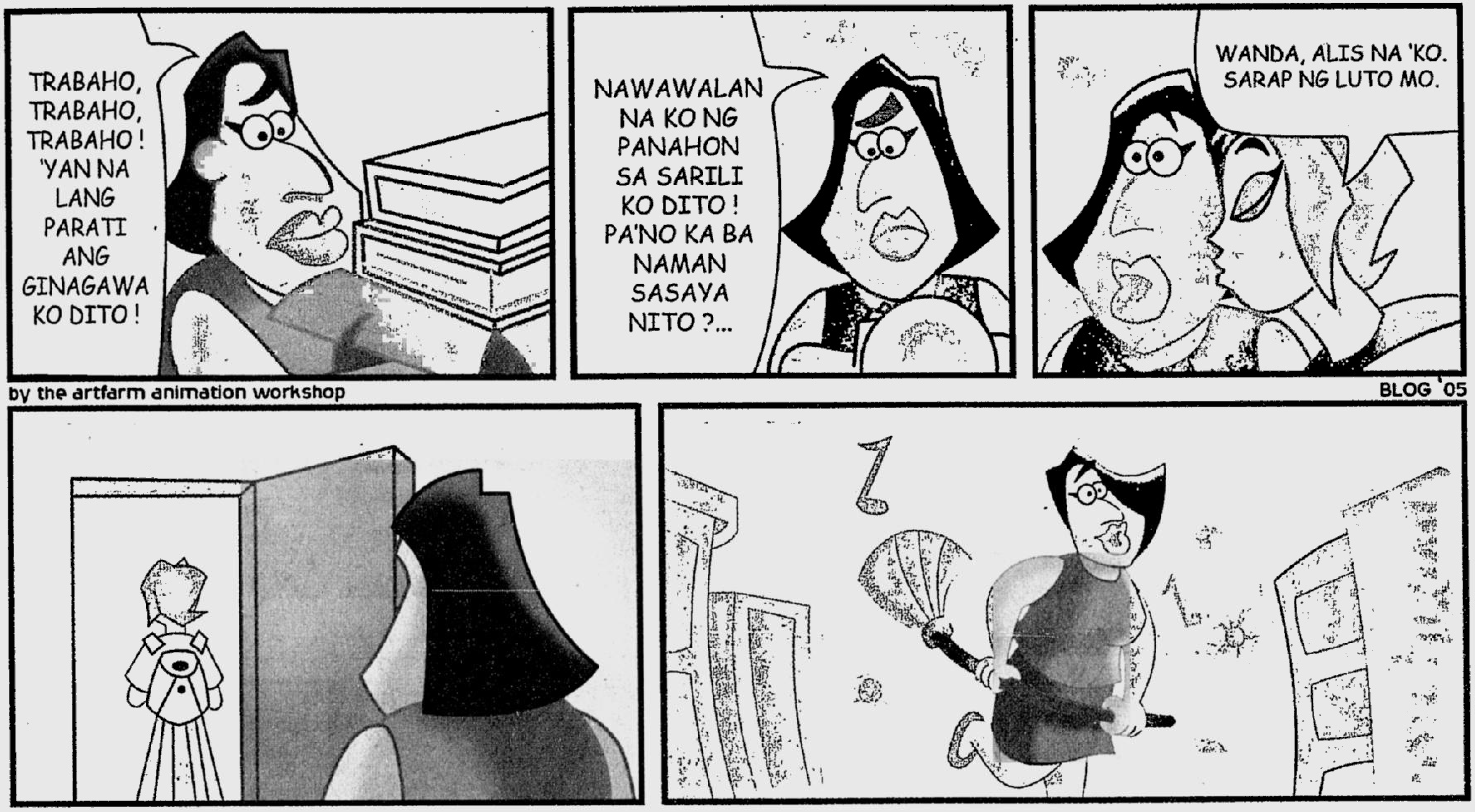
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA

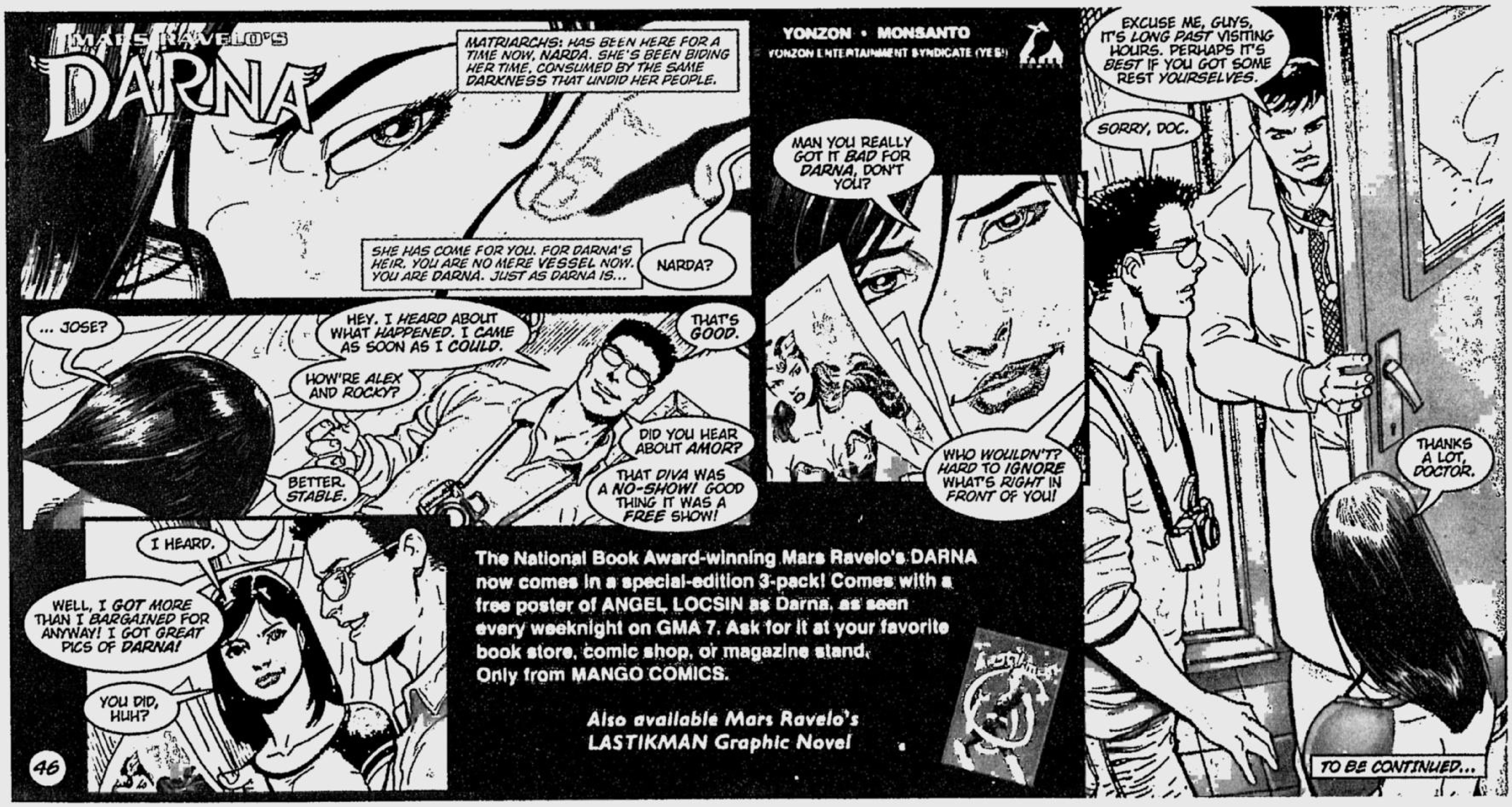

TRABAHO, TRABAHO, TRABAHO! 'YAN NA LANG PARATI ANG GINAGAWA KO DITO!
NAWAWALAN NA KO NG PANAHON SA SARILI KO DITO! PA'NO KA BA NAMAN SASAYA NITO?...
WANDA, ALIS NA 'KO. SARAP NG LUTO MO.

by the artfarm animation workshop

BLOG '05

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S DARNA
MATRIARCHS: HAS BEEN HERE FOR A TIME NOW, NARDA. SHE'S BEEN BIDING HER TIME, CONSUMED BY THE SAME DARKNESS THAT UNDID HER PEOPLE.
SHE HAS COME FOR YOU. FOR DARNA'S HEIR. YOU ARE NO MERE VESSEL NOW. YOU ARE DARNA. JUST AS DARNA IS...
NARDA?
... JOSE?
HEY. I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD.
HOW'RE ALEX AND ROCKY?
BETTER. STABLE.
THAT'S GOOD.
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT AMOR?
THAT DIVA WAS A NO-SHOW! GOOD THING IT WAS A FREE SHOW!
I HEARD.
WELL, I GOT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR ANYWAY! I GOT GREAT PICS OF DARNA!
YOU DID, HUH?
46
YONZON • MONSANTO
YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
MAN YOU REALLY GOT IT BAD FOR DARNA, DON'T YOU?
WHO WOULDN'T? HARD TO IGNORE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
EXCUSE ME, GUYS, IT'S LONG PAST VISITING HOURS. PERHAPS IT'S BEST IF YOU GOT SOME REST YOURSELVES.
SORRY, DOC.
THANKS A LOT, DOCTOR.
TO BE CONTINUED...

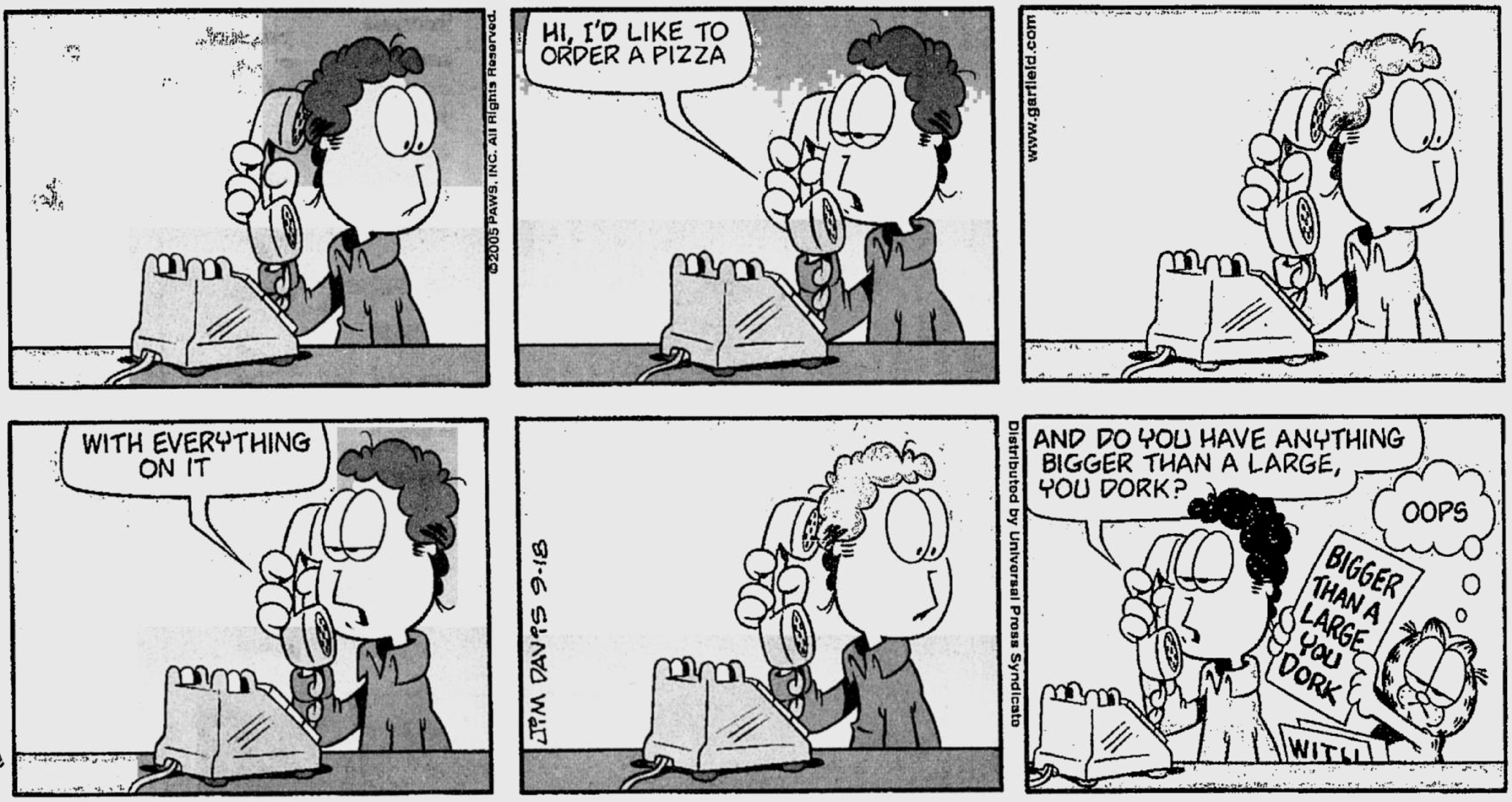
The National Book Award-winning Mars Ravelo's DARNA now comes in a special-edition 3-pack! Comes with a free poster of ANGEL LOCSIN as Darna, as seen every weeknight on GMA 7. Ask for it at your favorite book store, comic shop, or magazine stand. Only from MANGO COMICS.

Also available Mars Ravelo's LASTIKMAN Graphic Novel

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


HI, I'D LIKE TO ORDER A PIZZA
WITH EVERYTHING ON IT
AND DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING BIGGER THAN A LARGE, YOU DORK?
OOPS
BIGGER THAN A LARGE YOU DORK
WITH
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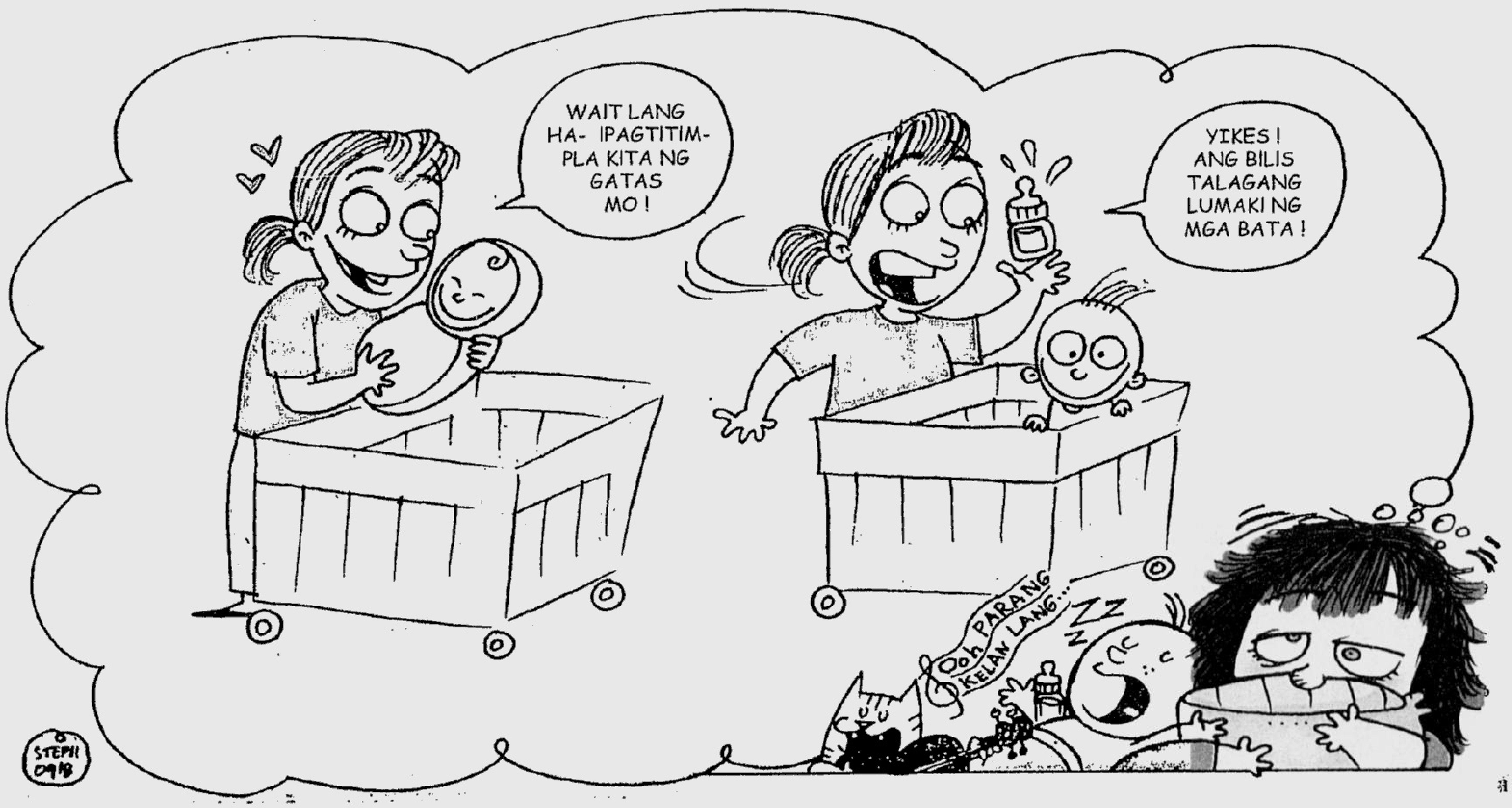
JIM DAVIS 9-18
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

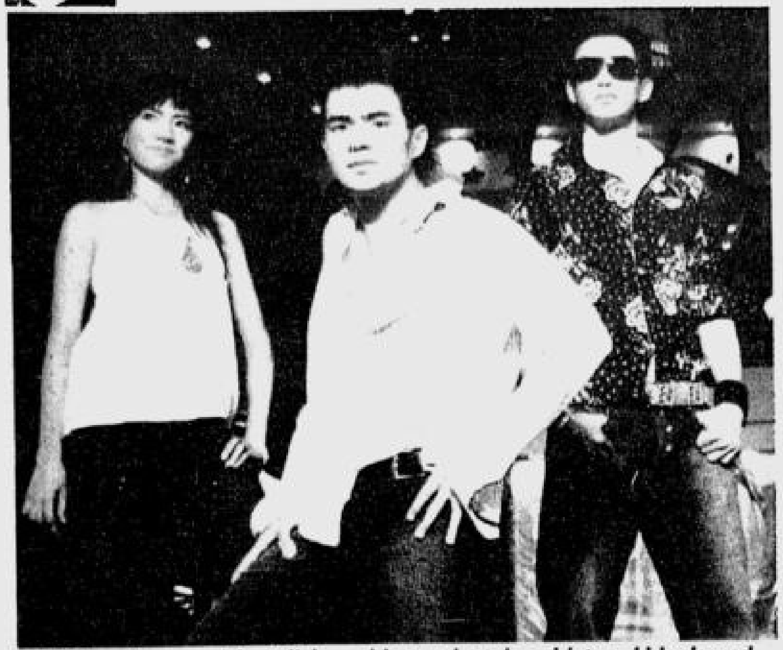
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


WAIT LANG HA- IPAGTITIMPLA KITA NG GATAS MO!
YIKES! ANG BILIS TALAGANG LUMAKI NG MGA BATA!
Ooh PARANG KELAN LANG...
ZZZ
STEPH 09/18

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

Hip fashion preview



WHITE tube top with stylish necklace, pinstripe shirt and black-and-white floral shirt and denims

THE TRENDIEST CASUAL wear were showcased at Ali Mall Araneta Center with the recent staging of the "Fashionista Show."

Ali Mall's top-selling stores presented their best-selling ready-to-wear pieces and also unveiled their latest collections.

Sassy tank tops, embroidered tops, denim jeans and other stylish accessories were presented by well-known fashion brands like Jag, Naf Naf from Cinderella, Freeway, Pink and Blue Soda, B.U.M. Equipment, Sassa and Solo.

Popular clothing lines such as Penshoppe, Cinderella, Bizaare, Blu Tab, John Brian and Converse held sales to coincide with the show.

The event is only one of many activities being held at Ali Mall to give customers the best shopping experience while getting the best value for their money.

To make shopping extra-enjoyable for the whole month of September, Ali Mall is having a mallwide anniversary sale. Discounts of up to 50 percent are being offered.

WHITE top with multi-colored capelet, green capri, white belt and clutch from Freeway

ON HER: brown beaded top, turquoise bohemian-inspired skirt with bronze bag from Freeway. **On him:** printed pink shirt and denim, scarf from Freeway

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

M	A	C	A	W	■	■	T	A	M	P	■	R	J	R	■	C	A	S	E	D
O	C	U	L	I	■	B	A	I	U	L	■	H	O	O	■	A	L	T	A	R
C	U	B	A	N	J	O	U	R	N	A	L	I	S	T	■	L	A	R	G	O
S	P	E	N	C	E	R	■	■	■	G	O	N	E	T	O	■	M	I	L	O
■	■	■	■	E	N	G	E	L	■	U	T	O	P	I	A	N	O	V	E	L
R	E	A	G	A	N	■	L	I	L	I	■	S	H	E	R	E	■	E	S	S
V	I	S	I	T	A	R	I	Z	O	N	A	■	■	■	S	O	B	S	■	■
I	D	O	L	■	■	S	H	A	N	G	R	I	L	A	■	N	A	F	T	A
N	E	L	■	A	R	T	U	R	■	■	M	E	O	W	S	■	B	O	S	S
G	R	O	S	S	E	■	■	D	E	C	O	R	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	S
■	■	■	F	A	L	S	E	■	L	O	U	■	I	D	A	H	O	■	■	■
O	L	Y	M	P	I	C	C	O	L	O	R	S	■	■	N	O	N	A	M	E
I	O	O	O	■	T	A	H	O	E	■	■	E	G	A	D	S	■	S	A	L
S	P	U	M	E	■	M	O	O	N	R	I	V	E	R	■	■	A	C	N	E
■	■	C	A	S	K	■	■	■	S	U	P	E	R	I	O	R	G	A	N	G
S	P	A	■	S	A	A	B	S	■	N	O	R	M	■	N	E	T	P	A	Y
C	A	N	C	E	L	L	O	A	N	S	■	E	S	T	E	S	■	■	■	■
A	N	D	A	■	B	A	L	B	O	A	■	■	■	R	A	C	I	E	S	T
L	E	O	N	E	■	S	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	U	L	A	N	T	L	Y
P	R	I	D	E	■	K	E	A	■	O	H	A	R	E	■	L	I	T	E	R
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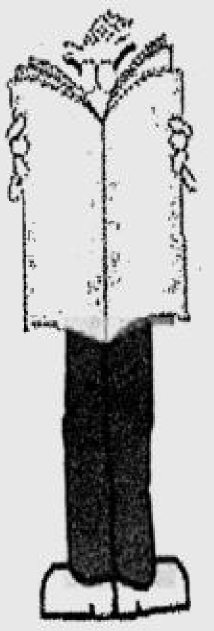

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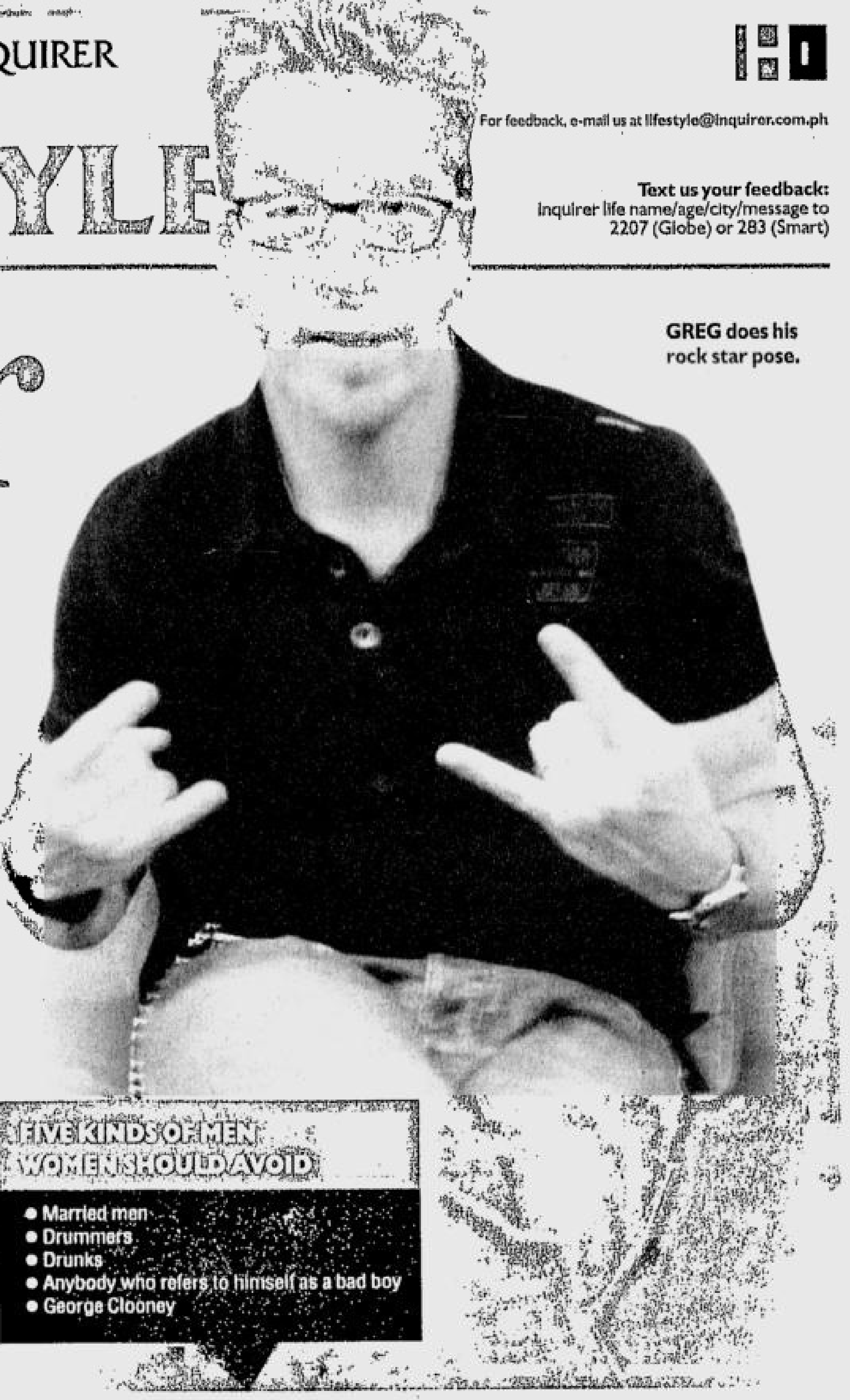

GREG does his rock star pose.

The rock star of self-help

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

GREG'S ADVICE TO TORPE PINOY MEN

ASK WOMEN OUT. Step up. That woman may go by and you may never have that opportunity again. If you play the shy card, women won't come and find you. I remember trying to be the shy guy in high school and you know what, no one asked me out or cared.

HE WANTED TO BE A ROCK star. And the truth is, he looks more like a rock star than a best-selling author.

But Greg Behrendt isn't known for his killer guitar riffs and tireless vocals. He has been embraced for freeing countless women from the horrors of dating ambiguity, thanks to the book he wrote with "Sex and the City"'s executive story editor Liz Tuccillo—"He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuse Truth to Understanding Guys."

The book is an easy and entertaining read, with letters from different women with relationship problems and chapters that begin with the catchphrase, like "He's Just Not That Into You If He's Disappeared On You" and "He's Just Not That Into You If He Only Wants To See You When He's Drunk."

"Our book is not a set of rules," Behrendt said. "It's not a setup for you to get a man or how to get a man. Our book is a setup for you to honor yourself and treat yourself in a way that makes other people treat you better. Our idea is if you treat yourself well, you'll have a good life and that will ultimately attract somebody good."

Before his book started flying off bookstore shelves all over the world, the stand-up comedian already had a good thing going. He married Amiira Ruotola, whom he calls "the greatest woman in the world." He had occasional gigs on "The Late Show with David Letterman," "The Tonight Show with

THE ROCK STAR/ H2

Greg Behrendt's six powerful words—'He's Just Not That Into You' —spawned a 'Sex and the City' episode, a book, a live show and, soon, a movie. He has freed women from staring at the wall, waiting for the phone to ring

FIVE KINDS OF MEN WOMEN SHOULD AVOID

- Married men
- Drummers
- Drunks
- Anybody who refers to himself as a bad boy
- George Clooney

Tears?

Life's treasures. An award-winning career, fame and fortune – Sharon has worked hard and been rewarded for it. But what she truly values are the intangible gifts that she has been blessed with – family, quiet joy, peace of mind. Sharon's happiness is complete when all of these come together in that perfect moment when her daughters see her and their faces light up with unconditional love.

Sharon Cuneta
Actress

Photography: Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
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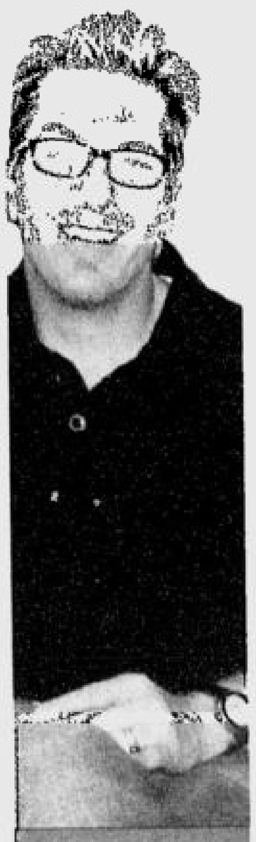
Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

INQUIRER supports the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign

The rock star of self-help



WHEN TO SEND YOUR MAN PACKING

YOU KNOW. You know. If you're holding the book, you know.

If you're talking to your girlfriends too much about it, you know.

If your stomach hurts every time you think about it and not in a good way, you know.

It's only a matter of when you're gonna be honest with yourself and go, "What am I doing?"

From page H1

Jay Leno" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." He had his own one-hour HBO special "Man-tastic," a funny look at gender stereotypes, which led to what became a three-year stint as a consultant for the insanely popular show "Sex and the City." His job as the only straight male in the staff was to provide the male perspective when they plotted storylines. Yes, that means you can see bits of him in Aidan and Berger.

Then, six powerful words left his mouth and his life was never the same again.

"He's just not that into you."

It happened while he was working on "Sex and the City."

"During lunch break, the girls would talk about their relationships," Behrendt said. "I would usually stay out of it, I'd just have a cookie. One of the girls brought me into the conversation and said, 'Listen, I have this scenario, can I tell you about it?' She asked me about this guy she had gone on a date with. She had asked him to come up but he didn't come up. I said, 'If I was into you, I don't care if I was going on a space shuttle tomorrow, I'm coming up.' Then I asked if he's rebooked the engagement and she said no. So I said, 'He's just not that into you.'

"The girl shrieked and it became this big deal. Everyone started saying maybe he's busy, maybe he's got a lot on his mind and I said some of those things could possibly be true, but in my experience as a guy, if I'm into you I'm coming up, I'm spending time with you. If I'm into you, I'll call you."

Liz then told Greg, "It's a book."

"Maybe a pamphlet," he replied, still skeptical.

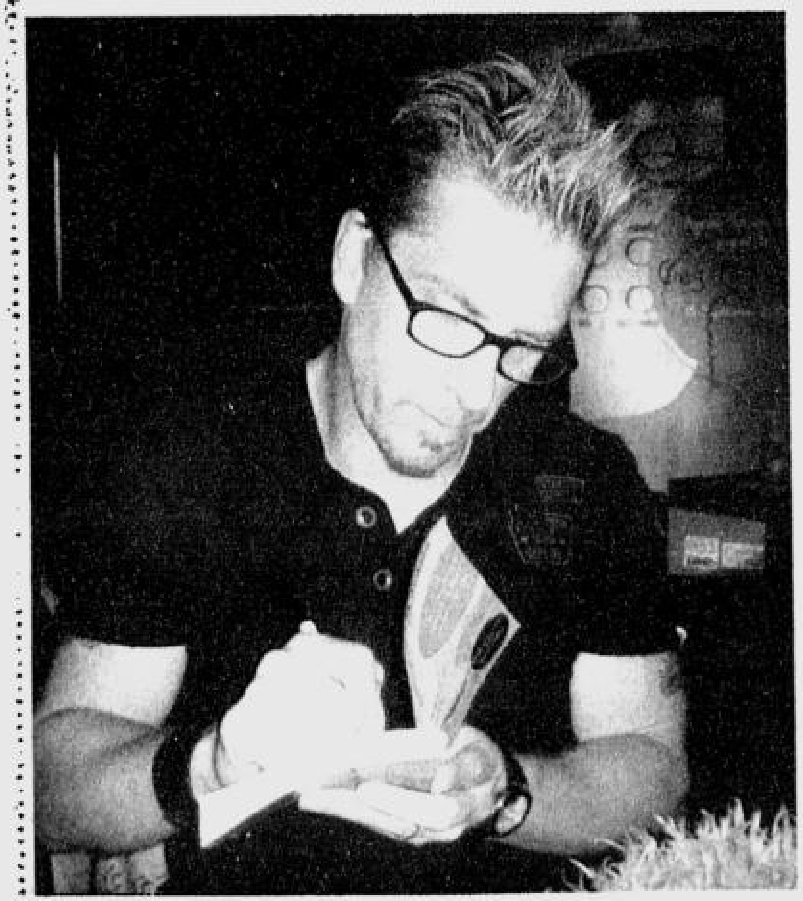
Greg said, "My wife was instrumental. When Liz said, 'It's a book,' I went home and said, 'What is she talking about? I don't get it.' And my wife was like, 'Yes, it's a book.'"

The line found its way into a "Sex and the City" episode and soon, the book was written.

But unlike other authors of self-help books, Greg repeatedly stresses that he's not claiming to be a guru. Even his process of writing was different.

"It was written in a really non-authoritative way, in a you're-hearing-it-from-your-friends kind of way. I would think of how I'd say it to my sister. I'm not a doctor, I'm not a therapist, I'm a stand-up comic. I'm not better than anybody else."

When the book was finally released in September of 2004, Greg still had no idea on how big it was going to be. "Trust me, I didn't think anything was gonna happen. I swear to you, my dream was, oh I have a book in a bookstore, I'm gonna walk somebody into a bookstore and say, hey, I wrote that book."



SIGNING autographs after the press conference in Pepato.

WIN A SIGNED COPY OF 'HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU'!

WHEN did you realize that he was just not that into you and how did you get out of that relationship?

Send your answers to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph along with your name, age and contact info.

Greg on 'Oprah'

But "Oprah" happened. Greg was asked to guest on the show twice, answering questions from women in the audience.

"It was life-changing," Behrendt said. "Oprah basically embraced the book and told all the people to get it. That was awesome."

It was the beginning of what became known as the "He's Not Just Into You" revolution. Big sales made the book No. 1 in bestseller lists worldwide—from The New York Times and USA Today to Wall Street Journal and even Amazon.com.

Greg and Liz also did a short tour with a live version of the book. Today, if you Google, "He's Just Not That Into You," you will get 199,000 hits. Websites in all kinds of languages are discussing the bestseller.

And it seems that a movie is in the works, too. He said that Nikki, one of the letter-writers in the book, might be the movie's lead character. "There is a feature film version of 'He's Just Not That Into You' coming out that Liz and I wrote. It's with New Line Cinema. Hopefully it will come out next year. Someone very big is about to be attached to it." (Here's a clue: "D.B.")

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLER

Perhaps we can trace Behrendt's success to the fact that he knows what he's talking about because he's actually lived it. "I wasn't a good guy, but I don't think it made me a bad boy, I think it made me a jerk. I would be dishonest, I would lie and say that my career was really happening and I really couldn't get involved right now or I have a lot of stuff going on here or I just got out of something that's really intense. I would use a lot of the excuses that's now in the book—that's how I knew how to write the book."

It was his wife who changed that. "I met my wife and suddenly I didn't have excuses and suddenly I knew what it was like to really love somebody and to really show up and be there with them all the time. That's what changed me."

When asked how his wife feels about the book and everything else, Greg said, "Loves it. She loves it."

Ex-girlfriends

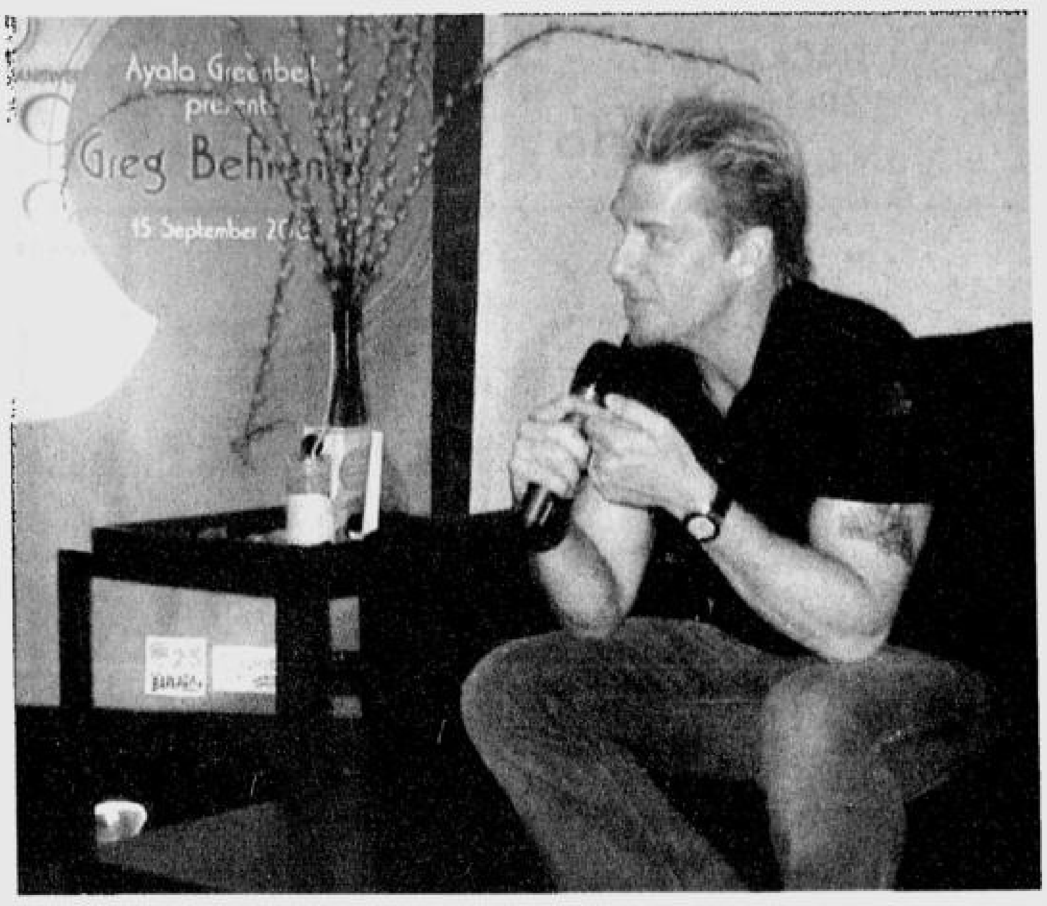
He's heard from ex-girlfriends as well. "I'd get e-mails with the subject line "I guess you weren't really that into me" and "I can't believe you're on 'Oprah' now."

And his male friends were surprisingly appreciative, too. "You know you'd think guys would be upset about it but that's not the case. I've gotten a couple of angry e-mails but that's to be expected. A lot of guys also have sisters who date or moms who date and a lot of guys buy the book for their sisters and their female friends."

Greg, who started giving advice when his sister was born ("Ever since she was old enough to hear I've been giving her advice.") has become the older brother to countless women who have read his book.

People even stop him on the street for advice. "It happens when I go to places that are female-friendly. When I was out shopping during Christmastime, yes, everywhere I went. I'll be going about my business, walking around the mall or something and someone will come up."

Behrendt stresses that the book's message is simple. "We wanted to put a thing in the book, 'If you're holding this book right now, you already have your answer. Put the book down, go home and break up with him.' And of course the publisher said that's insane."



GREG talks about his book, about "Sex and the City" and about his future.

He's still trying to understand why his simple message became such a huge revelation. "I think we tend to complicate situations more so they'd make sense to us. It's a way of rationalizing, making the person seem more complicated. But most of them are pretty clear about it, when somebody likes you, they like you. They show up and they like you. If they don't like you, they give you a lot of mixed signals because they don't want to hurt your feelings."

Exceptions to the rule

Many people want to know—aren't there exceptions to the rule? Greg's answer is a firm negative. "No. There are always exceptions to every rule, the problem is if people hang their hopes on being the exception and not really looking at what's happening. That's the problem. My life, for me, I'm always the rule. I'm never the exception. I feel like you have to look at life that way."

Greg knows there are people who challenge his message. "Relationships are supposed to be talked about. The great thing about the book is that it started a dialogue. If someone doesn't like the book I say more power to you, write your own book. I don't have a problem with you not agreeing with me because I'm not putting myself out there as a doctor. I'm literally just a dude with an opinion."

Feminists have criticized Greg for advising women against making the first move. "My personal experience was that any relationships that started with the woman asking me out didn't pan out. What I feel, and this is from living in America, there is so much hooking up that men have gotten so lazy that they don't even ask women out. Women have to carry babies and have their monthlies so I feel like men should do something hard—ask a woman out. I'm not saying women shouldn't ask men out but the idea of the book is you should know you're good enough to be asked out." In other words, "Don't waste the pretty."

Greg also says the catchphrase works in reverse, too, that we can tell guys that "She's just not that into you." He added, "Absolutely. But men won't buy that book. That's why it's not a book. But I've been that guy. I had liked women who were not into me. How else would I know what it looks like if I hadn't also been on that side of it?"

When asked what dating advice he'd give to his two daughters, 3-year-old Bella True and 5-month-old Mighty Luna, Greg said, "I'm not gonna tell them anything and let them take their mom's lead because mom's the one in the family that everyone is worshipful of. I'm gonna just step back and say, I wrote this book, you might want to check this out. I'm definitely gonna make their boyfriends read it. When those guys come to the house, I'll say, I wrote the book, bro, so you need to step it up."

More to come

There's a lot in store for Greg and his fans. He and his wife wrote a book, "It's Called a Breakup Because It's Broken: A Smart Girl's Break-Up Buddy," which will come out later this month. "It's about how to get through a nasty breakup and not just get through it but turn it into the event that makes your life better."

They're also planning to write another one called, "It's Just a Bleeping Date." Then there's "Uncool," the DVD version of his comedy act. Although his TV show hasn't been completely worked out yet, there's a possibility of a relationship talk show, a reality series or a sitcom. There's also his band, Black Rattle. "We play heavy metal versions of children's songs. Songs like 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' and 'Where is Thumbkin?'"

Greg does so many different things but what is his ultimate passion? "Being useful. Wherever the light is shining, whatever's working."

Ayala Land Inc. brought Greg Behrendt to Manila for two days. Last Thursday, he gave people a taste of his comedy with "Uncool," his act that pokes fun at his life as a rocker-turned-suburban dad who is losing his coolness. Then, last Friday, he held his audience captive, talking about his book and his "Sex and the City" stint. "It's been really crazy. It's a year later and I'm in the Philippines. Fantastic," Greg said enthusiastically.

And it is fantastic. He can pack different venues with people, fans ask him for his autograph and many claim he's changed their lives.

He might as well have been a rock star.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

ON JENNIFER ANISTON

I DON'T know all the stars although I did see Jennifer Aniston on my street corner the other day.

How is she holding up?

She's doing okay, you know, we sat down and chatted for a little while. I told her, you can do so much better than Brad. He's okay but he's shallow.

Did you give her a copy of the book?

I gave her a hug, that's what I gave her.

Did you tell her that Brad just wasn't that into her?

I think she knows, she sees the pictures of him with Angelina and the kids and she kinda gets the picture. If she doesn't have it by now, I feel really bad for her.

ON 'JERRY MAGUIRE'

I WAS cut out of "Dumb and Dumberer." I was also cut out of the movie "Jerry Maguire." If you get the anniversary DVD I'm in the deleted scenes.

"Jerry Maguire" is one of the best movies of all time but it's one of the most harmful, too.

The line "You complete me" is bad because you're, like, oh I need another person to complete me. Bad idea.

And then, "You had me at hello." You didn't even have to say the speech, I was on the floor picking something up and I would have taken you back. I would have said, "You know what, nice speech, get outside and come back tomorrow 'coz I don't want to hear about your big night."

'60s fashion back in style

From page H8

London department store Harvey Nichols just opened, also at the Landmark.

The IFC mall and Lee Gardens over at Causeway Bay have replaced Pacific Place as the premier shopping destinations. If you are staying at Causeway Bay, you must go to GOD, the hippest home interior store without maxing out your card.

The boutique that started it all—Joyce—was under renovation when I was there, but it will have a major reopening at its Queens Road, Central boutique on Sept. 29 via a huge fashion show with stellar international fashion designers and models in attendance. Watch this section for the full report.

In terms of nightlife, the hot bars are still Dragon I, Kee Club and Volar. And lastly, everyone knows that HK Disneyland has opened, which is, I am sure, where most of the Filipinos will want to bring their children and release their inner child as well.

TNT do's and don't's

Here's a list of things that you should and shouldn't do. Enjoy!

Do: Wear and act your age. Wear denim, which is very "in"... Purchase **Stella McCartney's** new line of Adidas workout clothes... follow what the dress code says in the invitation (only **Tessa Valdes** and **Tim Yap** can get away with coming in their own dress code)... RSVP... Watch "The Correspondents," the best news/public affairs on air... Watch "Dubai," a Filipino film we can be proud of... remember you are from the Philippines—you can never have enough friends, enemies, talk about politics, and since **Imelda** is a Filipina, shoes!

Don't: Feel bad when you take a test and your reflected age group is with the more mature age (think: 29-34, 35-40, 41-45 etc.)... Buy anything that says "stonewashed"... Wear cycling shorts in public, only **Lance Armstrong** looks good in them... Forget to pay your credit card and utilities—I did once and they really did cut off my power... Forget to tip the waiter!... Watch "Pinoy Big Brother"... Step between GMA and **Cory** unless you want to lose all your friends on both sides of the political scene.

E-mail antonsd@philtalter.com

FIVE STARS. A look of one of the rooms at the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong

Marriage-shy because of parents' relationship

DEAR EMILY,

This letter is about my mother.

My father met and married her when she was already pregnant by another man. He fell in love with her despite her condition. Our family has grown now—the two of them having three children.

As far as I can remember, my parents were always quarrelling. My father worked nights while my mother worked days. They hardly saw each other but when they did, there were always fireworks.

I did not understand why my father called my mother names and used horrible language when talking to her. Now that I am older, I can comprehend what is truly happening.

My father caught my mother having an affair not just once but several times. His friends would also tell him that they see her in far-out places with another man. I think this drove my father to drink. Now, he is drunk every day.

Lately, my mother has become obsessed with her cell phone. She is constantly holding it, not allowing anybody to touch it, much less read its contents.

We are not rich and are always in debt. I wonder how my mother can change phones so often and buy nice clothes when we can hardly pay our tuition fees.

I don't believe her when she says she won this or that, or a rich relative gave her money or whatever. I know she is lying. Someone is giving her money.

I don't want to have a marriage like my parents'. My boyfriend is asking me to marry him, but I am hesitant. I am afraid the same thing will happen to me.

Sometimes I wish my parents would just separate or die. Our house has no love in it at all. I hear screaming and cussing all the time.

MH

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

You are only seeing the tail-end of your parents' relationship. It took them years to destroy it and let it rot. They are what they are because of what has transpired between them over the years.

Nothing happens at the spur of the moment. The tragedy you are witnessing resulted from seconds, minutes, hours, days and years of enmity. This marriage has broken down by the sheer weight of the hurts, tears, cussing, sadness, frustrations, violence—and anything else you can think of that happens in a day.

Everything adds up.

It will take another lifetime possibly or lots of consistent and dedicated hard work to chip away at the bad blood that has turned into concrete between them.

Before you condemn any of your parents, ask yourself if this isn't a case of that old puzzle—which came first, the chick or the egg?

Your father married your mother knowing full well that she was carrying another man's child. Couldn't he have started a "blame game" after the marriage, excavating her "colorful" past during their first quarrel that snowballed over the years into a blind rage? Or could your mother have hurt your father's pride by referring to her past love, opening up a slew of old wounds?

He probably drinks to forget her "activities" and she has her "affairs" to cope with a marriage gone wrong. It sometimes takes three or four people to make one marriage work.

Relationships are sooo complicated. What starts out as a sunny discussion can turn into a violent hurricane with no warning at all. It could be triggered by an innocent joke taken the wrong way or a benign comment that gets twisted in the mind.

> 'I did not understand why my father called my mother names and used horrible language when talking to her'

And when arguments start, there's no stopping anymore. Your parents' relationship has become cancerous. Both of them are right and wrong at the same time. And they are both righting a wrong by doing something wrong. It's been a vicious cycle and no relief is in sight!

There should be a conscious effort by all of you to stop this never-ending psychological abuse. They fell in love once. There must have been something they liked about each other! Someone must start building on that. Can it be you?

With your own marriage in the very near future, the easiest advice to give is: "Don't be like your parents." Let history not repeat itself in your own relationship. Have an open dialogue with your husband-to-be and learn from your parents' mistakes.

Remember, there's nothing that cannot be solved by a good and honest discussion. Your family has had sufficient misery to last you a lifetime. Enough already!

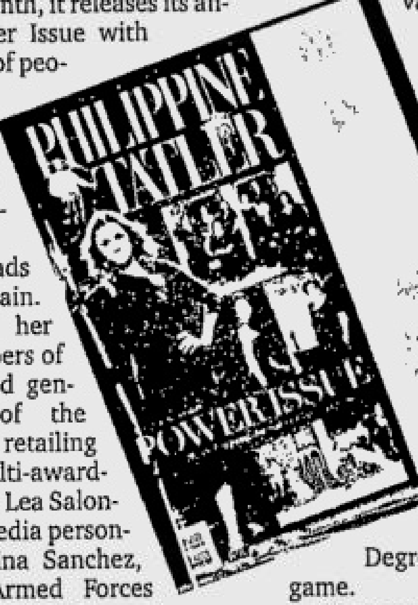
E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 pm, Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

LEA Salonga

Power issue marks mag's 4th year

THE PHILIPPINE TATLER HAS just turned four.

This month, it releases its annual Power Issue with its lineup of people with authority. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads the list again. Joining her are members of the second generation of the Tantoco retailing clan, multi-awarded actress Lea Salonga, top media personality Korina Sanchez, retired Armed Forces commander General Efren Abu, ace comedian Dolphy, members of the Philippine Senate, the Spice Boys (Nani Braganza, Ace Barbers, Miguel Zubiri, Nonoy Andaya and Mike Defensor), fashion's new guards (Rhett Eala, Dennis Lustico, Jojie Lloren and Randy Ortiz), business leader Ricardo Romulo, and society's golden couple Paing and Mely Hechanova.



Also featured is the third installment of the Social IQ Quiz, which lets you test your knowledge of high society current events. For more fun, trace the connection between seemingly unrelated people with the Six Degrees of Separation game.

The magazine honors the great artist Fernando Zobel. It looks at his life, work and lasting contributions to Philippine art.

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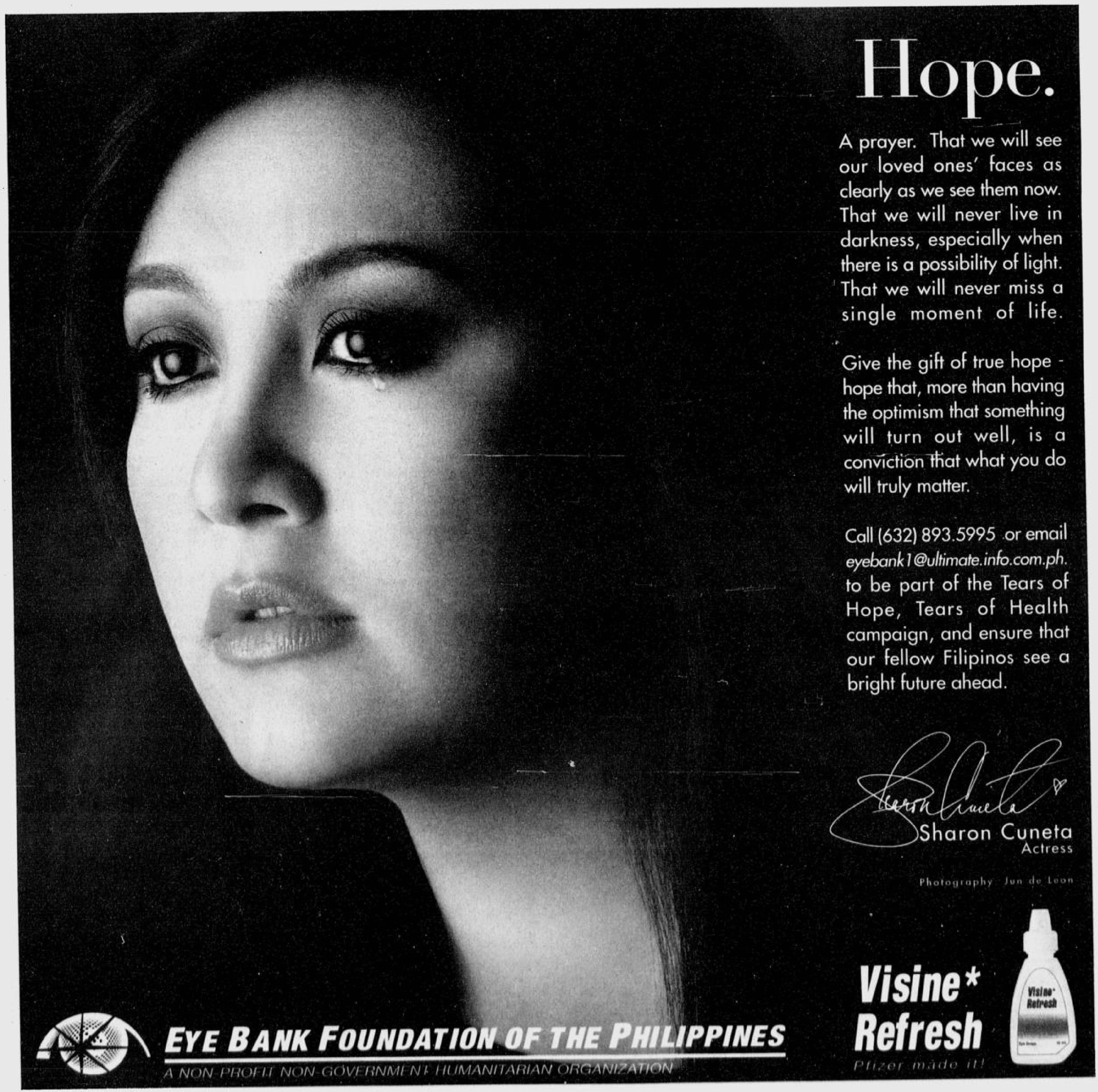

Hope.

A prayer. That we will see our loved ones' faces as clearly as we see them now. That we will never live in darkness, especially when there is a possibility of light. That we will never miss a single moment of life.

Give the gift of true hope - hope that, more than having the optimism that something will turn out well, is a conviction that what you do will truly matter.

Call (632) 893.5995 or email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph. to be part of the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

Sharon Cuneta
Actress

Photography Jun de Leon

Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER supports the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign.

JOHN Gokongwei, chairman emeritus, JG Summit Holdings, Inc.; James Go, chair, JG Summit Holdings, Inc.; Lance Gokongwei, president, JG Summit Holdings, Inc.; and Robina Gokongwei-Pe, group general manager, Robinsons Retail Group lead the celebration.

SISTERS Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Hope Gokongwei-Tang, Faith Gokongwei-Lim, Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng and Marcia Gokongwei-Sy

LANCE Gokongwei and PDI president Sandy Prieto Romualdez, one of RDS' many well-wishers

JOAN Cosico, assistant vice president for business development of Robinsons Retail Group, and Graham Coates, general manager of Robinsons Department Store

ALL TOGETHER NOW: the top concessionaires o f RDS

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA

Retail chain strong at 25

SHEREE performs a number during the program that also featured Robert Sena, Ana Fegi, Diana Zubiri, Francine Prieto and others.

ROBINSONS Retail Group marked its 25th anniversary with business partners, employees and friends at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila Grand Ballroom.

The Robinsons Retail Group (RRG), the second largest retail group in the country, consists of Robinsons Department Store (RDS), Robinsons Supermarket, Handyman, Robinsons Appliances, Ministop, Robinsons Specialty Stores (carrying Topshop, Topman and Dorothy Perkins), and Hot Loops Donuts.

Big band live music was provided by Brass Munkeys. Paolo Bediones and Suzi Entrata-Abrera hosted the program that featured Diana Zubiri, Sheree, Robert Sena, Ana Fegi, Juliana Palermo, Francine Prieto and Jenny Miller.

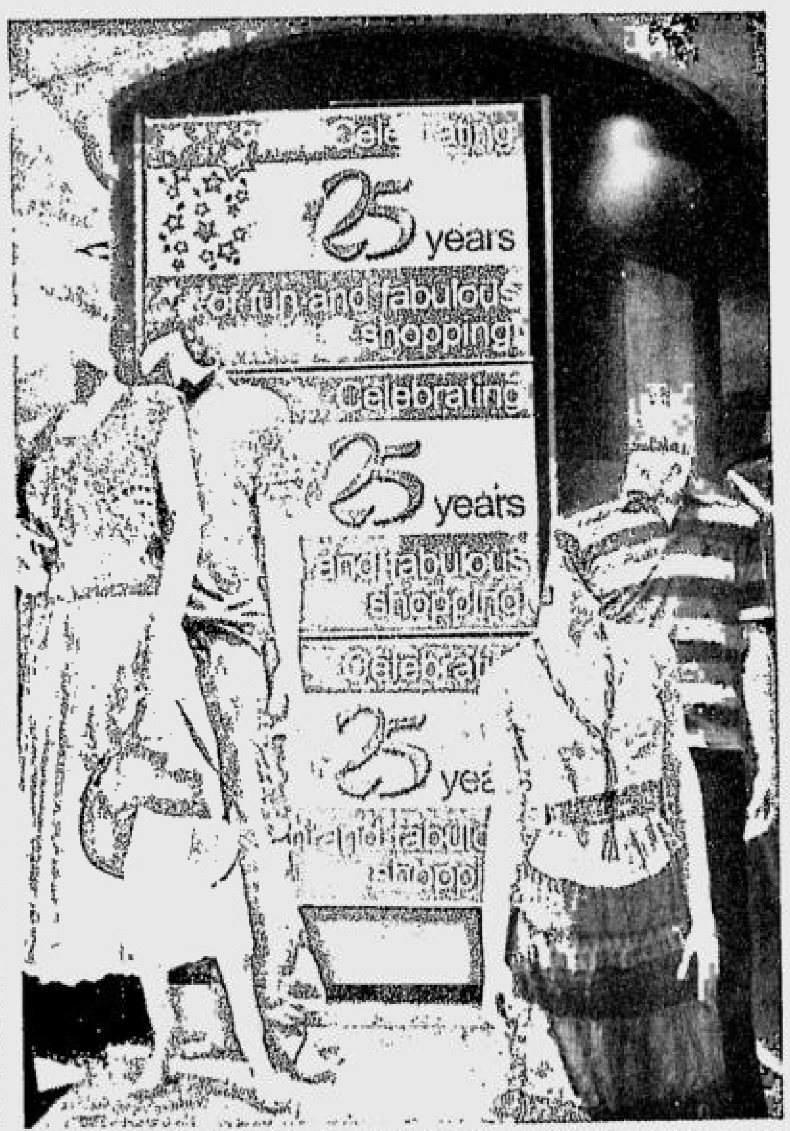
Group general manager Robina Gokongwei-Pe said in her opening remarks that the chain, which now had seven retail formats and 246 stores, was still growing. She invited guests in advance to the chain's 50th anniversary.

Eight pioneer employees received awards from John L. Gokongwei Jr., chair emeritus and founder of the JG Summit Holdings Inc. and RRG; and James L. Go, chair and CEO of JG Summit Holdings Inc. and RRG.

Robinsons' Top 25 concessionaire groups were also acknowledged by Robina and RDS general manager Graham Coates, assisted by RDS's AVPs for merchandising Hope Gokongwei-Tang and Malou Torres. Awardees were Barbizon, Triumph, Hanes, Burlington, Dickies, Bench, Company B, Lee, Jag, Freego, Crissa, Bobson, Candy, Town & Country, Trendsetter, Irdy, Grizzly, Wanly, Bankee, Rusty Lopez, Barbie, Skechers, Secosana, Ever Bilena and L'Oreal Philippines.

Guests won gift certificates, I-Pod shuffles, overnight accommodations for two at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, round-trip tickets for two to any local destination via Cebu Pacific, round-trip for two to Hong Kong via Cebu Pacific and cash prizes totaling over P300,000. Jon Ryan Sy of Power Paul Manufacturing Corporation won P100,000.

COO Lance Gokongwei together with his sister Robina, his father John and his uncle James led a ceremonial toast. He also introduced a new business partner, Dr. Victor Fung of the Hong Kong-based Li & Fung Group.



READY-TO-WEAR fashion from the department store format of RDS

DAVID Loh of Citibank, James Go, chair of JG Summit Holdings, Inc., and Steve Lawrence of Citibank

JESS Dinglasan, John Gokongwei and Victor Fung

COOL crew for Hot Loops doughnuts

PETER Lim, Madeleine and PL Lim

JOHN and Evelyn Lim Forbes

INQUIRER chair Marixi and Alex Prieto

IMELDA Marcos and Ising Vasquez

ITALIAN Ambassador Rubens Anna Fedele and Chilean Ambassador Jorge Montero

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

COSETTA Fedele, Jill Beckingham, Wendy Helly, Nena Casimiro, Consul Fortune Ledesma

LOUIE Ablaza, Consul Mellie Ablaza, Dr. Sonny Ong, Helen Ong, Belgian Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe, Baby Arenas and Gul Tanghe

‘Turkish’ sendoff for Belgian ambassador

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

DR. SONNY AND BELIZE CONSUL HELEN Ong, together with **Louie Ablaza** and Guatemalan Consul **Mellie Ablaza** (who's also a lawyer, by the way), gave a joint *despedida* for Belgian Ambassador **Christiaan** and Mme. **Gul Tanghe** with a Middle Eastern theme.

The Turkish Delight dinner was complete with a belly dancer as a surprise. Though she turned out to be Rumanian rather than Turkish, she gave an impassioned performance nonetheless.

The food was Middle Eastern as well with rice pilaf and tabbouleh, hummus, kebabs and samosas and those simply sinful baklavahs for which Mellie and Helen supposedly slaved for a week. They were actually done by a chef borrowed from a Middle Eastern embassy.

Ambassador Tanghe is taking a leave of absence from the diplomatic corps for a year but he will remain with us until his son finishes his studies.

Honoring a titan

It was a wonderful celebration in honor of one of the titans of Philippine industry, **P.L. Lim**, a modest person who didn't want his birthday celebrated.

So his wife **Madeleine** and daughter **Evelyn Forbes** gathered a (ball)roomful of faithful friends ostensibly to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Philippine Carpet Manufacturing Corp. (who hasn't heard of Taiping carpets?) and the 30th anniversary of Capital Garment Corp.

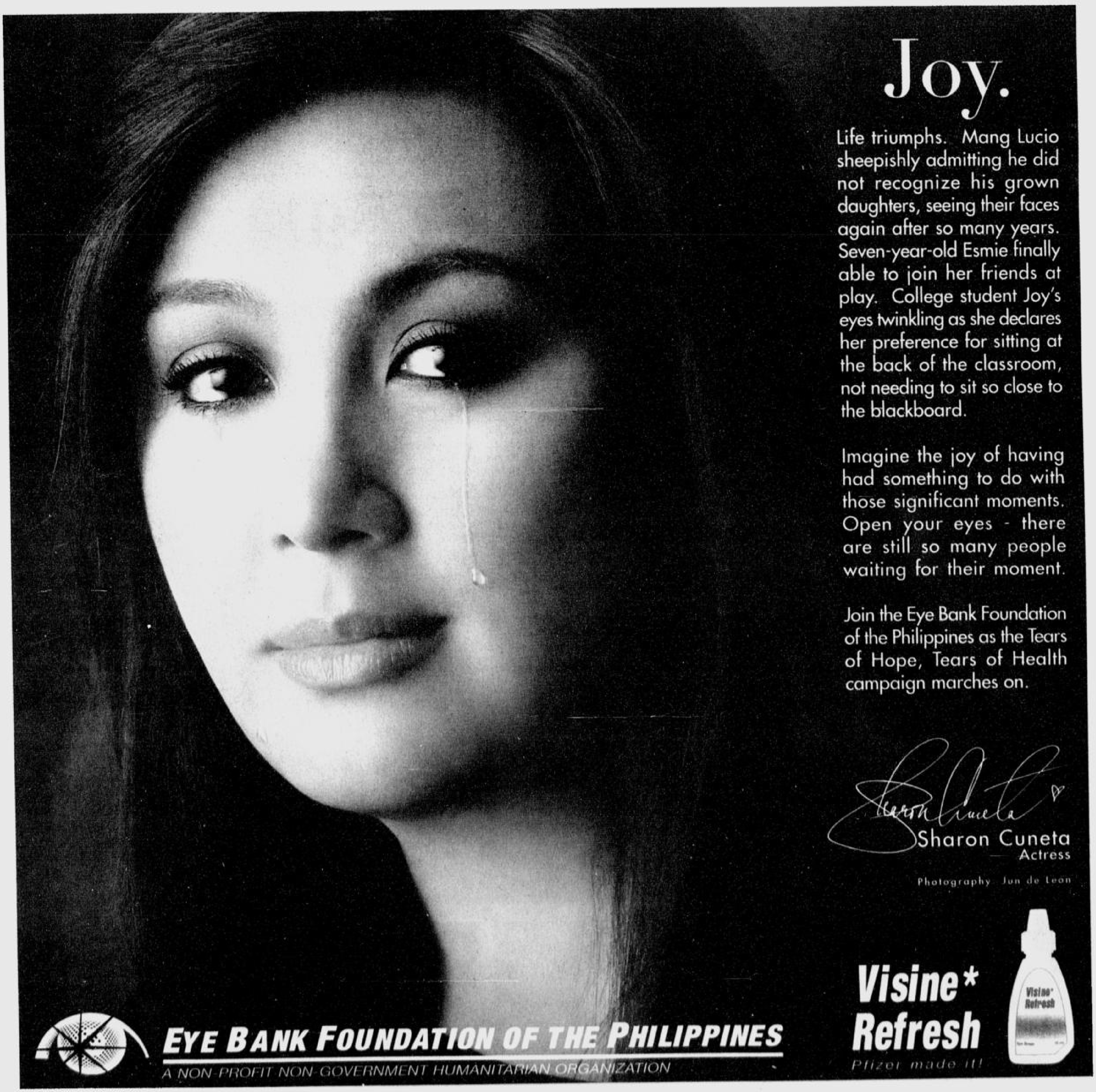
Among the guests were **Bonnie Sycip** and **Mercen Palanca**; **Boling** and **Vic Reyes**; Ambassador **Isabel Wilson**; the Concepcion brothers and their spouses, **Menchu** and **Marivic**; **Ching Montinola**; **Alex** and **Marixi Prieto**; **Mary Prieto**; **Ising** and **Danny Vasquez**; as well as P.L.'s children, **Margaret Kwok**, **John** and **Evelyn Forbes**, **Peter** and **Penelope Lim.**

There was hardly a dry eye in the room when the birthday cake was rolled in. Employees were there as well to greet this wonderful gentleman—*un cavallero*, as they say. They don't make them that way anymore.

Retreat

The Centering Prayer Retreat is held until today at St. Joseph Marello, Tagaytay City. Call 8420201 or 8438830.

INDIAN Ambassador Navrekha Sharma and UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham



Joy.

Life triumphs. Mang Lucio sheepishly admitting he did not recognize his grown daughters, seeing their faces again after so many years. Seven-year-old Esmie finally able to join her friends at play. College student Joy's eyes twinkling as she declares her preference for sitting at the back of the classroom, not needing to sit so close to the blackboard.

Imagine the joy of having had something to do with those significant moments. Open your eyes - there are still so many people waiting for their moment.

Join the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines as the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign marches on.

Sharon Cuneta
Actress

Photography Jun de Leon

Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

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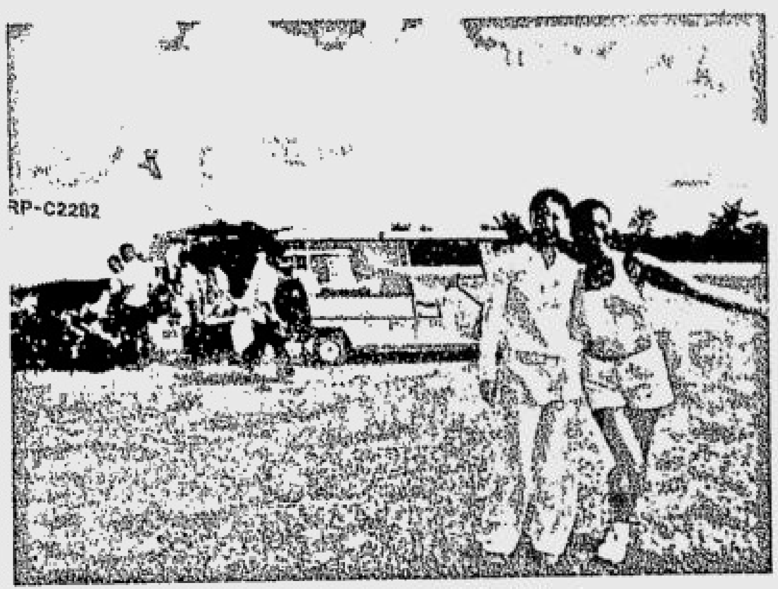
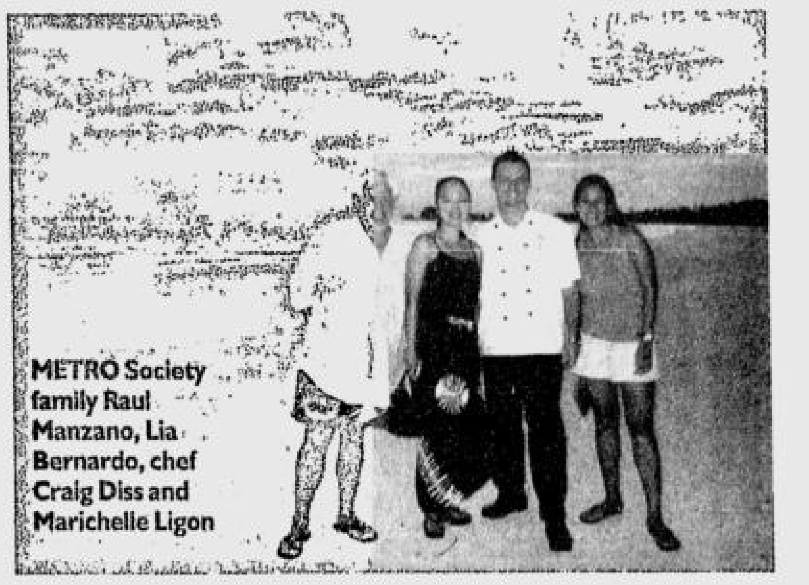


WELCOMING committee Lyba Godio and Bela Lipat

BEHIND-the-scenes shot in the beach pavilion of Amanpulo



METRO Society family Raul Manzano, Lia Bernardo, chef Craig Diss and Marichelle Ligon

Blissful in Amanpulo

BEACH buffet bonfire in front of our *casita*

TESSA!

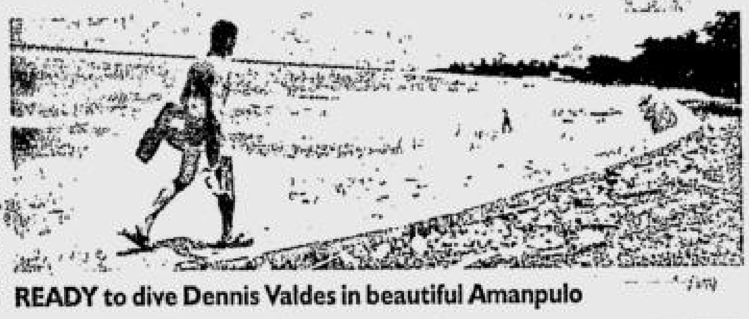
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

IF THE GLOOMY SEPTEMBER rains are putting a plug on your parade, think about escaping our troubled city lives and heading to one of our country's pristine little resorts, even just for a weekend getaway. My husband Dennis and I had the chance to do exactly that last month. A short, one-hour picturesque plane ride brought us straight to Amanpulo, a small, excellent resort on the private island of Pamalican, surrounded by white-sand beaches and turquoise waters.

Amanpulo guests stay in spacious *casitas*, complete with a luxurious bath and dressing area. Nestled among tropical foliage, the *casitas* are patterned after the *bahay kubo* dwelling and were designed by architect **Bobby Manosa**. Each *casita* maintains a modern flair and is remarkably well-kept. Guests are also given a private buggy to explore the island.

Between Manila's full-blast, swinging social calendar and my full-time, successful breastfeeding schedule, I was in dire need of a weekend "picker-upper" trip. So I was ecstatic when Metro Society editor **Lia Bernardo** asked if hubby and I would do a pictorial essay in Amanpulo for their December travel issue. Without batting an eyelash and not even checking on Dennis' appointments, I agreed that very instant and started planning my resort wear.

I almost fainted in horror when they weighed me at the airport and found I was overweight



READY to dive Dennis Valdes in beautiful Amanpulo

Thanks to spunky, fun designer **Kate Torralba**, I had colorful outfits with matching bags for a whole week! It must have been an extra challenge for Kate to find ways to camouflage the remaining fat deposits all over my body. I almost fainted in horror when they weighed me at the airport lounge before boarding the 19-seat, twin-engine plane.

"Liquefy" is the term senior associate editor **Raul Manzano** uses, defined as digitally enhancing a photo to remove blemishes and other "unwanteds." It's like visiting Dr. **Vicki Belo** without the pain, except the results are only for the printed page. Raul promised to liquefy me so that I don't look like a blob beside Dennis, who is in great shape from Pilates lessons with his instructors, **Andrea Mercado** and **Linzi Arellano-Co**.

Pleasant surprises

For the different sports features, we pretended to engage in everything from tennis, biking, scuba diving, snorkeling and kayaking. We also pretended to do yoga with my traveling, jet set yoga instructor, **Bela Lipat**. All that pretending got us tired, so we both had a real massage and real meals that were sumptuous.

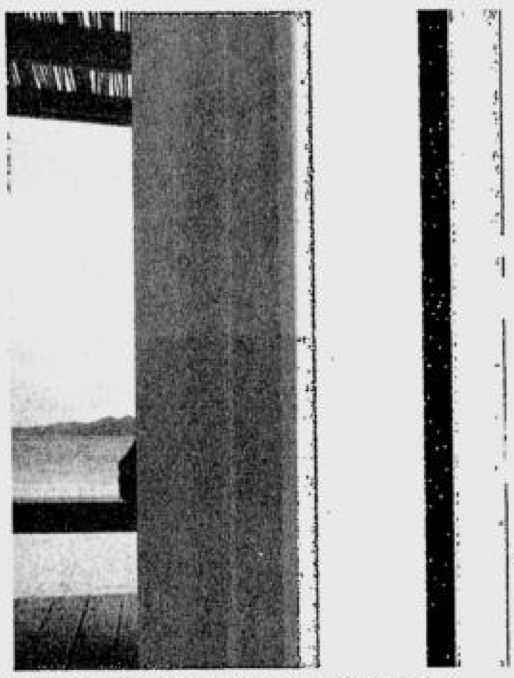
That's one of the pleasant surprises at Amanpulo. On our first visit 10 years ago, I remember that the food was incredibly expensive and tasted horrible. With their new Australian executive chef, **Craig Diss**, today the food is great. His version of Nasi Goreng is delicious. The homegrown salads are spectacular. Ask for the catch of the day that can be served next to a beach bonfire.

The only problem in paradise is their pesky *nik-nik*, beach bugs that can give you a nice itch. I realized too late that the best way to keep them off is coconut oil aside from the Off lotion that the resort provides in the rooms. I will just have to stock up on Lancôme products since they are having their biggest-ever Gift With Purchase promo now in Rustan's.

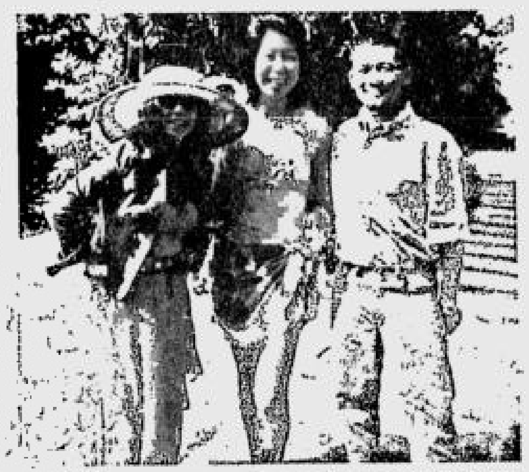
Now that my soon-to-be-wed friend **Kris Aquino** is a converted beach lover, I will suggest that she honeymoon with her beau **James Yap** in Amanpulo. The fact is that it is one of the best resorts in the world. While swimming in their pool, Dennis met a Scottish guy who said it was the most beautiful pool he had ever been in, bar none. Thinking that the Scot must have just arrived in Asia, Dennis asked him how he could make such a hyperbolic statement.

Turns out that the Scot has lived in Japan for over 15 years and visited over half the Aman resorts worldwide. Of all the upscale places he had visited, Amanpulo was their family favorite and they were returning here for the umpteenth time. For such a well-traveled foreigner to make that statement about our very own is indeed quite a testament!

The best part of Amanpulo for us local Pinoys is that they have a lot of local residents promotions, most of which are open until Oct. 31. Definitely something to look into if one has a free weekend next month!



YOGA pose called *ekapadarajkapotasana*



SILK Cocoon owner Frances Lim with Dennis Valdes and me

Birthdays

I met Kris and fiancé James at the birthday party of Super Bench giant, lovable **Ben Chan**. His star-studded dinner was complete with all his Bench endorsers and close friends. Ben is just so well-loved because in spite of his humongous success and power in the retailing industry, he has remained so humble and generous. For a charity raffle I organized last week, he even gave a grand prize of a dining set from Dimensione.

With "Look Who's Talking" co-host **Anton San Diego** present, the Bench birthday dinner moved on to karaoke! I quickly ended my singing episodes before more rain was induced to fall on our fair city. I was also party-hopping that night, so I had to do a French exit. (I wonder what the French call it when they leave a party early?)

It was wonderful to see Kris comfortable with a man she does not have to compete with. In my brief conversation with James, I feel this shy and true country boy-cum-basketball pro will be a stabilizing factor for Kris. I guess it's pretty much the same as how Dennis keeps me grounded and secure most of the time. And it is a comforting feeling to have!

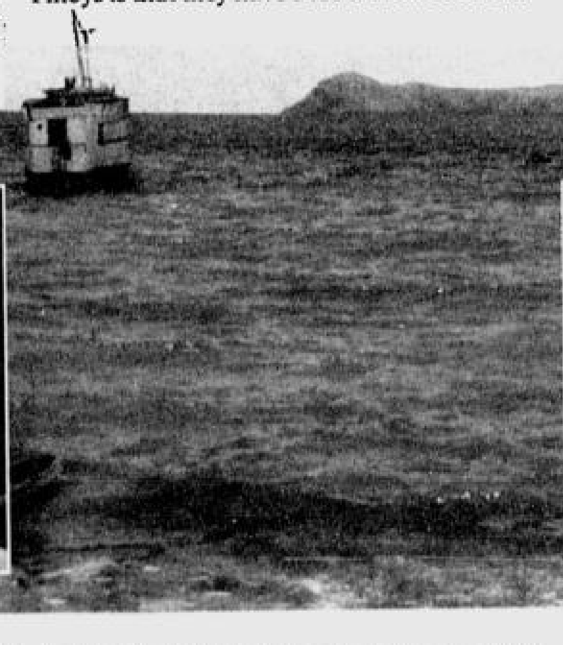
Cancer and Virgo men are the most gentle and heart-warming people I know. Aside from Virgo Ben, there is Cancerian **Bobby Novenario**. He, too, spent his birthday with close friends at his home. Bobby also helped me solicit ticket buyers for my charity event and, luckily, one for his tickets won him two-round trip tickets to Boracay on Sea Air (thanks to exciting PR **Jingjing Romero**) and overnight accommodations in the newly refurbished Nami Resort Villas courtesy of generous **Cheese Ledesma**.

Bobby's birthday party started with a Mass officiated by four priests. Guests were asked to donate their gifts to the Arnold Janssen Mission Foundation, where Bobby is vice chairman. Incredible how charity can have such a great pyramid effect! Truly when one gives as much as they can, they get more back in return. Nice words to think about on a rainy Sunday!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

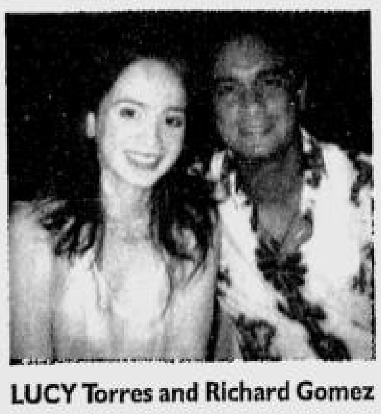
SURFER photographer Pat Mateo and Metro Society editor Lia Bernardo

BOBBY'S dear friends Danny Dolor, Fanny Blanco, Sen. Loi Ejercito, Carrie Bautista, Justa Tantoco and Fe Ng



BIRTHDAY boy Bobby Novenario, Vivien Velez Goroskorf, Alex Pineda, Ito Curata and Bob Miller

SIGNATURE 30-m infinity pool of Amanpulo



LUCY Torres and Richard Gomez

PRETTY Julianna Gomez with her Barbie friend Tessa

JAMES Yap, Kris Aquino and Ben Chan

EL Nido Resort-bound, Jun Allanigue with Nico, Alexa and Bonnie Sanchez

YOGA expert Bela Lipat and sister Aleli Warren Brown

Behind-the-Scenes of the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign

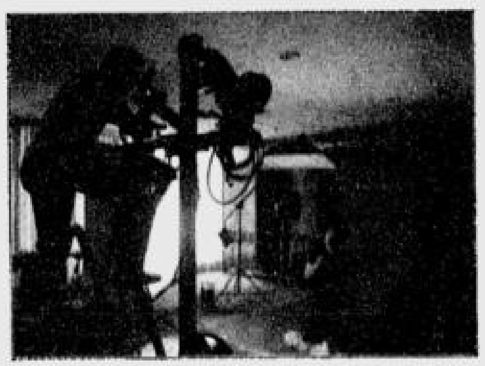
Inno Sotto (seated) and Jun de Leon (standing)

Melanie Marquez and Jun de Leon

Richard Gomez and the team (note tear-spotter Malou) holding on to Jun's pant leg.

(L-R) Jericho Rosales, Jun de Leon, Blue Bottle creative director, Reynaldo de Chavez (seated)

Judy Ann Santos


Jun de Leon (on ladder) and Rico Blanco (kneeling)

Tessa Prieto-Valdes (seated) and makeup artist Abbygale Arenas-de Leon (right)

(L-R) Albert Martinez, Eye Bank founder and president, Dr. Minguita Padilla, cornea recipient Lucio Nabayra

Sharon Cuneta (4th from left) and Fanny Serrano (2nd from right) with Redgie de Chavez and Malou Ty of Blue Bottle; Winnie Nieva of Perceptions; Kristen Mariano and Midz Cruz from Pfizer; ChinChin Regalado from Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines; Jun de Leon of Wings Photography; and Clifford Olanday of Perceptions.

Lea Salonga, Ligaya Salonga (standing, leftmost) and Jun de Leon (rightmost)

THE "TEARS OF HOPE, TEARS OF Health" campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines and Visine Refresh has received unprecedented support from leading Filipino celebrities and personalities who donated their talents and likeness for the promotional materials designed to raise awareness about corneal blindness and increase cornea and eye pledges. Over 40 actors, singers, industry professionals and leading public figures have shed tears of hope for our corneally-blind fellowmen.

The Tears of Hope, Tears of Health team included photographer Jun de Leon, EBFP founder and chair Dr. Minguita Padilla, EBFP PR coordinator ChinChin Regalado, Visine Refresh product manager Kristen Mariano, Redgie de Chavez and Malou Ty from ad agency Blue Bottle, and Noel Nieva, Winnie Nieva and Clifford Olnaday from PR agency Perceptions Inc.

In the short span of five months, the tears team pulled together for and was witness to what is a first in Philippine history - over 40 different celebrity photo shoots for one cause. As the sessions increased, the team worked like a well-oiled machine: Dr. Padilla or ChinChin would brief the celebrity about the EBFP while makeup was being done, Clifford and Winnie would document the shoot while Redgie notes down the possible shots from Jun, who has one foot outstretched for tear-spotter Malou.

Once Jun shouted, "That's it, we're done!", he, Redgie, Noel and Kristen would gather in front of the laptop for the difficult task of picking out the shot to be used. As they do this, Winnie and Clifford would interview the celebrity for the copy and Malou would ask for a signature (for the ad and for personal autographs!). Understandably, some celebrities would ask if there could be less people in the room, but Jun would firmly say, "They all have a role to play." Here are selected excerpts from their historic experience behind-the-scenes of the "Tears" campaign:

APRIL 13: CESAR MONTANO

It all started with Cesar. Being the first photo shoot for the campaign (and with a major celebrity at that), the team was excited about the whole process, especially meeting the star himself. Cesar Montano came straight from the airport to the campaign's official shoot venue, Traders Hotel. After warm greetings were exchanged between Cesar and Jun de Leon, the camera and the campaign started rolling. Directions for the shoot seemed easy enough: capture the smile (think happy thoughts) and then get the tear (draw from within). Cesar executed all these without trouble. In a matter of two hours, the photo shoot was over. This first shoot gave the team an idea of things to come.

APRIL 4: ABBYGALE ARENAS-DE LEON

Madonna and child. With a mother and child treatment for Abbygale Arenas-de Leon's shoot, the Tears team got to meet Irijah or Ijah, the highly-energetic and fully-confident 8-year-old child of Abby and Jun de Leon. As the shoot started, Jun quickly found out that working with his son was very different from working with professional models and actors. Ijah did the photo shoot his own way doing exactly the opposite of what his father instructed him to do. He threw his arms in the air when Jun asked him to put them down. He grinned instead of smiling. Finally, Jun put his foot down, allowing him to capture the perfect shot of his family.

APRIL 15: TESSA PRIETO-VALDES

Giggly. Tessa's shoot almost did not happen but after a flurry of last-minute phone calls, she graced the Tears team with her very pregnant presence. With the help of makeup artist Abbygale Arenas-de Leon, she was transformed into the colorful Tessa we all know. As the Jun gave her directions -- "Think of your happiest moment... and hold it back. Think Peter Pan!" - Tessa laughed away. She would compose herself, then a small smile would creep in and, finally, laughter! Thankfully, she calmed down enough and gave one of the most powerful photos in the series.

APRIL 22: ANNE CURTIS

Breaking down. Anne Curtis' peg dictated that she lie down flat on her stomach and look straight up at the camera with hair cascading from her beautiful face. After several shots of hopeful smiles and tears, Jun finally asked Anne to let it all flow. And flow her tears did. The master photographer had to ask a bawling Anne Curtis to stop crying. The final photo was all worth it.

APRIL 22: RACHELLE ANNE GO

Sing it! Rachelle Ann Go's shoot happened on the same hectic day as Anne Curtis' shoot. As soon as she arrived, and after a quick round of introductions, Jun de Leon chatted her up and started to make her feel more comfortable. He got to know as much as he could about her while prepping her for the Tears shoot. A casual observer would know at this moment why Jun de Leon is the most trusted celebrity photographer. He takes time to know his talent. Jun makes the connection with every person that sits for him.

During her makeup session, Rachel was fitted with headphones (similar to those singers use for their recording sessions) as her prop. She quickly connected this to her CD player and started humming and singing. At the shoot, Rachel sang while getting directions from Jun. She thought of the happiest moment in her life: her victory as a singing champion. Then, a tear and a smile appeared. This was her best photo yet.

APRIL 26: PIOLO PASCUAL

Picture perfect. A lot of negotiations happened the night before Piolo Pascual's photo shoot. With gentle persuasion and some last-minute coordination, Piolo was able to lend his time to the campaign. Fast-forward to a few hours later and Piolo was reviewing the test shots while taking directions from Jun de Leon. His talent was evident as he expressed the look of happiness for the camera that the photographer wanted him to convey. And although every photo could have been used for the campaign, Jun wanted that perfect shot and worked with Piolo until it was captured.

APRIL 26: RICO BLANCO

Conversations with Rico. Rico Blanco's photo shoot was the most intricate in terms of set-up. The lead singer of Rivermaya was to be photographed from the top, requiring an overhead camera set-up complete with ladder for the photographer. Rico knelt on a floor mat, held a black microphone close to his chest and looked up while conveying the look of hope. Before he knew it, the shoot was wrapped - the set-up was longer than the actual shooting. Being a perfectionist, Rico requested for more shots. Afterwards, he stayed on exchanged stories and anecdotes for hours with the team. This rock superstar was in no rush to go anywhere and his new fun-friends were happy to stay.

APRIL 30: SARAH GERONIMO

The champion arrives. Even with all her accomplishments and talent, Sarah Geronimo was the most unassuming celebrity the team ever met. Sarah impressed everyone by being gracious and most approachable during the entire shoot. Her shoot was also one of the shortest sessions in the campaign's history. After some instruction from Jun de Leon, the singing champion was able make tears flow while exuding happiness on her face. A very hard feat for most. What made her cry? Jun asked her to think of all the people she thanked during that night she became a champion.

MAY 3: MARK BAUTISTA

A willing hero. Mark Bautista has to be given credit for his cooperation. For his shoot, he was requested to wear his Lastikman costume, something that he might not have been too keen about. In addition, after confessing to Jun de Leon that he did not know how to cry on cue, Jun playfully suggested he could arrange for someone to jab him in the eye. Mark decided to do his best and was able to cry on cue during his session.

MAY 3: CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA

Friendly competition. Christian Bautista's shoot came right after Mark's photo shoot. They exchanged greetings as Mark boasted that he was able to deliver tears on cue. Christian did the same, taking only a little bit longer than Mark did. Afterwards, both singing stars stayed on to have lunch and discuss the campaign with the team.

MAY 10: TINTIN BERSOLA-BABAO

She's just happy. The TinTin you see on-camera is the same TinTin the team met during the shoot. Self-described as a naturally happy person, she was worried that tears might take some time for her. While being made-up, TinTin shared anecdotes about her newborn Antonia with the team. Jun de Leon suggested that she think of her and Julius during the shoot. And when it was time, Jun gave TinTin encouraging directions: think about Antonia running towards her or Julius holding their daughter in his arms. The final product was a photo that depicted the beautiful glow of motherhood.

MAY 10: JUAN SARTE

In color. Makeup master Juan Sarte's photo shoot was one of the shortest session as well. Being the expert in his field, he naturally did his own makeup. For clothes, Jun de Leon wanted to inject color into the standard black or gray wardrobe of the ads. With Juan's green scarf draped over a black shirt, the photo shoot started. Usually working behind the cameras, it was evident that Juan's experience on the other side was utterly new and nerve-racking for him. His final photo, however, gave no indication of this as Juan's face glowed with a beautiful, hopeful look.

MAY 10: JOSE JAVIER REYES

Smile! A contrast to Juan's quick photo session was Director Jose Javier Reyes' shoot. It took close to 45 minutes as he drew deeply from himself for the photo. Direk Joey would stand from his chair, head to the back end of the room, turn around and think quietly. Finally, he sat down and was ready. As a tear rolled down his cheek, Jun de Leon quickly yelled, "Smile!" and got the shot. Afterwards, Joey, Juan and the team spent hours together discussing varied topics that ranged from serious political subjects to mundane everyday issues.

MAY 12: AMANDA GRIFFIN

Shy type. Amanda Griffin showed the team how it was done. Jun de Leon envisioned a glamour shot with Amanda's long tresses blowing in the wind. As Jun clicked away, Amanda was in the zone. Each shot could easily have been a cover of a magazine. She exuded confidence in the way she looked at and posed for the camera. Contrary to her model persona, Amanda was mostly quiet when off-camera but she was very responsive when the campaign was explained to her.

MAY 18: ALBERT MARTINEZ

Twin tears. Two cornea recipients were present to witness Albert Martinez' photo shoot and meet the star himself. Albert spent time chatting with the recipients and inquiring about their history. With Dr. Minguita Padilla also on hand, he was given a crash course on corneal blindness and the Eye Bank. During the shoot, Albert surprised everyone when he delivered twin tears, one from each of his eyes. Jun was ecstatic about this accomplishment as Albert raised the bar for photo shoots to come.

MAY 18: INNO SOTTO

Oh Johnny! Inno was very involved in his pho- [illegible] true to his persona. He took part in developing his own pose and what he would wear, a button-down shirt with unfinished collar hem. But all this control momentarily broke down when he was given two posters of his favorite male celebrity, Johnny Depp. An excited Inno suddenly wanted to have lined eyes like Depp's character in the movie Pirates of the Caribbean.

MAY 25: KITCHIE NADAL

Tattooed. Hit with sudden inspiration, Jun de Leon wanted to feature Kitchie Nadal with a bandanna tied around her head. But after the bandanna was provided (bought quickly from a nearby mall), Kitchie decided to do without it and feature something else instead: a tattoo on her right hand. To accommodate this, Kitchie's final shot was zoomed out to fully feature the tattoo and her guitar.

MAY 28: JOYCE JIMENEZ

Baby Love. Deep into her session, Joyce broke into a monologue as Jun asked her about her happiest moments. She expressed her desire to have kids of her own. She also shared her disappointment at not being able to spend time with nieces and nephews because of her job. Everyone was quiet on the set as Joyce shared herself and her true tears for the campaign.

MAY 28: RICA PERALEJO

Vulnerability. It's always pleasant surprise when celebrities exceed your expectations. Right off the bat, Rica Peralejo was charming and friendly to everyone. While having a quick meal, she chatted up the team like they were her good friends. At the shoot, Rica made Jun de Leon scramble for his lens as she quickly shed tears right after sitting down. Jun remarked that her teary expression and vulnerable posture would make anyone want to comfort and hug her. In fact, one of the most powerful shots of the campaign is an unreleased photo of Rica showing deep sadness.

MAY 31: ARNOLD CLAVIO

Don't fret. Though experienced in facing the cameras in his nightly news broadcast and other TV shows, this task proved very difficult for Arnold Clavio. Jun de Leon assured the newscaster that the shoot would move along with his pace. He added that he should not feel pressured because the team would wait. And wait everyone did. He was already wringing his hands in frustration and nervousness, but eventually Arnold delivered the perfect look.

JUNE 1: AUBREY MILES

Beaded tears. Soon after everyone gathered around Aubrey Miles, she openly talked about everything that happened to her recently: that she was sick the day before her shoot and that she just arrived from Dubai. Aside from sharing funny moments during her Dubai taping for a TV show, she was also interested in knowing about corneal blindness. During the shoot, Aubrey delivered beads of tears chasing each other. Her participation (along with Rica's and Joyce's) completed one of the most popular series in the campaign.

JUNE 7: MIKE ENRIQUEZ

Imbestigador. Mike Enriquez revealed his more relaxed and funny side at his photo session. Mike liked to joke around showing that he was not the Imbestigador 24/7 (And for the curious many, he did not use his booming news voice all the time as well). Seeing Arnold Clavio's photo in Jun de Leon's laptop, he phoned his colleague to remark how good-looking he was in the chosen photo, and ask for pointers for his own shoot. Jun assured him that everyone who participated in the campaign would be taken care of. Jun was true to his word delivering another fantastic image for Mike.

JUNE 10: VICKY MORALES

Race to the finish. With time running out (it was the last day for submission of materials), Vicky arrived to complete the newscaster series. She was a vision -- a true lady in her appearance and demeanor and her easy elegance was perfectly translated by the camera. Immediately after the shoot, her copy was prepared, her image processed, and the artwork done, sent to the publication in the nick of time. This is one of the many memorable, almost impossible feats that the team was able to accomplish.

JUNE 10: JERICHO ROSALES

[illegible] close to two hours in the team's care. Playing a name game with him while waiting for the lensman's return, the normally-smart female members of the team were tongue-tied in his presence and quickly eliminated. Later, as Jericho reviewed the Tears ads that had been released so far, he said that he would have difficulty crying. He fooled everyone though. Soon as the Jun took the first shots, Jericho's eyes started to well up and tears started falling. Jun challenged the actor to give him tears that he could photograph falling in mid-air. Photographer and subject worked together to get a unique and truly moving shot.

JUNE 11: ALI SOTTO

Emotional. This day was a big day for the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign as four celebrities were slated to be photographed one after the other. Aside from celebrities, two cornea recipients and their families were present to witness the making of the campaign. The room was filled with energy as everyone waited for the first shoot of the day.

First up was Ali Sotto. Ali arrived ready for the shoot, bringing a jersey and framed photo of her late son, Miko Sotto. In the end, a heart-shaped pendant, which had Miko's picture and lock of hair in it, was chosen for her photo. From the start, everyone knew that this would be an emotional session. Jun de Leon was extra careful with Ali because he knew that memories of her son could cause a breakdown. Dr. Padilla was also very protective of Ali who she calls her "karmic sister". As Ali brought the pendant close to her lips and looked away, long-streaked tears ran down her face. Soon after, she did break down. And most of the people in the room were left teary-eyed as well.

JUNE 11: CHECHE LAZARO

Now ready. Cheche Lazaro came in as Ali's shoot was wrapping up. This respected broadcaster is personally connected to the campaign as she herself is a cornea recipient. It was a special moment when she met Ali. Cheche and Ali exchanged greetings and discussed each other's story. Dr. Padilla and Jun de Leon joined the informal gathering and listened intently as Cheche related her personal bout with corneal blindness.

Weeks before, Cheche expressed that she was not ready for the photo shoot. Her right eye was still swollen and red from the surgery. The team had to wait until her eye recovered a bit. At the shoot, Cheche surprised everyone as tears flowed from her recently operated right eye. Another powerful image was taken for the campaign.

JUNE 11: JUDY ANN SANTOS

Down-to-earth. Arriving early, Judy Ann was invited by the team to play a round of scrabble and she suggested that they play Pinoy scrabble instead. It proved surprisingly difficult but playing with such a superstar was definitely a tale to tell future grandchildren. Judy Ann and the team got so comfortable that she even entertained an inquiry about her love life from a gossipy team member. Maybe the question threw her off because during the shoot Judy Ann appeared giddy. When Jun asked her to think of her happiest moment, Judy Ann would give him a knowing smile. Shaking her smile off, she concentrated and delivered, in true drama queen fashion. In a short span, Judy Ann proved in many ways why she is adored by many.

JUNE 11: HEART EVANGELISTA

Pause. Heart Evangelista was the last shoot of day. Heart appeared tired but immediately perked up whenever anyone approached her. Truly beautiful, she could have done without hair and makeup for the shoot. But after Juan Sarte did his magic, she became even more radiant and was ready for her close-up.

At this point, everyone was in awe at how the artists of the campaign were able to cry on cue. However, when it was Heart's turn, she amazed everyone even more. After taking shots of her hopeful smile, Jun de Leon gave the signal for her to cry. Heart turned away from the camera and asked for a few seconds as she prepared herself. When she turned around, a tear started to fall very slowly on her face. Each tear after that followed the same path that her first tear had made. Jun then asked if Heart could stop the tear at a certain point, and amazingly, it did stop. With tears in pause, everyone was simply astonished!

JUNE 15: GARY VALENCIANO

[illegible] blur. Scheduled after a photo shoot for his new album, Gary's session for the campaign was fast. After being introduced to the whole team, Gary sat down, faced the camera, smiled, shed a tear and was done. It was over in a matter of minutes. After that, he was whisked away to rehearsal by his handlers.

JUNE 16: MARGIE MORAN-FLOIRENDO

Queen. On this day, two photo shoots were done simultaneously for the campaign. The room was set-up with twin makeup areas for Margie Moran-Floirendo and Lea Salonga. Margie arrived first (coming straight from the airport) and was immediately placed under the expert care of makeup artist Jerome Chang. After hair and makeup was done, she was fitted with a crown and an elegant black top. She drew everyone's breath away as she still looked the part of, or even better than, her days as Ms. Universe.

Margie had no trouble shedding tears during her shoot. What proved difficult was stopping her tears from flowing. As she reviewed the photos on Jun de Leon's laptop, teardrops still fell from her eyes. Jun jokingly told her that the shoot was over and she could stop crying.

JUNE 16: LEA SALONGA

New Lea. The shoot was the first time Lea met Jun de Leon. She had wanted to work with the master photographer for so long but their equally busy schedules had prevented an earlier collaboration. As Margie's shoot was ongoing, Lea studied how it went - smile first before the tears. When it was her turn, she was able to do both at the same time. The team was privileged to witness world-class talent at work. And, as her mother Mrs Ligaya Salonga observed, the result was a picture depicting an entirely different Lea, with a serene happiness in her look and smile.

JULY 1: TONY GLORIA

Tony's thoughts. Jun de Leon had a full day ahead of him with several photo shoots lined up. His photo shoot started promptly at 9 a.m. with Tony Gloria, celebrated producer and head of Unitel Productions. In the conversations between Tony and the team, it became clear how this man was able to produce groundbreaking local films. Tony had fresh ideas that he was not afraid to apply in the local movie industry. He talked about infusing music acts in his movies and even tapping the singers themselves to act in his films. He discussed new plots that will shake up the standard fare in local movies. Jun even picked his brain about his favorite foreign films, the Star Wars series.

JULY 1: EDDIE GARCIA

Surreal. Spending the day with Eddie Garcia was like being in one of his movies. He talked to everyone in his rich, baritone voice. Any word that came from his mouth was delivered like the famous catchphrases in his movies. And Eddie proved why he has lasted this long in the business. He bowed his head, hands clasped in front of him as everyone waited in anticipation. And then, he looked up, placed his hand on his chin, shed a lone tear, and smiled. That was it! The shoot was done in five frames.

JULY 1: CHRISTOPHER DE LEON

Ten frames or less. In the afternoon of the same day, Christopher de Leon was scheduled to be photographed. The room was now packed with people for another project. Jun had escaped to his quiet office as he planned what to do (or who to photograph first). His crew cleverly prepared two set-ups at opposite ends of the room for each project. The camera was placed in between so that it could be adjusted towards either end of the room. When Christopher arrived, Jun told him about Eddie's amazing feat just hours before. Challenged by this, Christopher was able to finish his shoot (tears and all) in less than ten frames.

JULY 2: MELANIE MARQUEZ

Supermodel. Melanie Marquez is truly a unique character. She regaled the team with anecdotes: why she joined Bb. Pilipinas (because she wanted to win a car) and her days as a supermodel in Italy (pulling of the androgynous school boy look long before it was cool). She also placed Jun de Leon in the hot seat, telling the team about his escapades as a young photographer. A slight hitch during her shoot was the lack of earrings to match the crown that she would wear. With no luck at the hotel gift shop, earrings were borrowed from a [illegible] beat, Melanie struck a pose and created magic once more.

JULY 5: MARTIN NIEVERA

Love doctor. Dr. Padilla was present during Martin Nievera's photo shoot. She had a strange connection to the singer because she became Martin's in-flight counselor when the two were seated together during a flight to the US. She was also the medical intern who attended to him many years ago. When she recounted these to Martin, he immediately remembered Dr. Padilla and shared the stories with everyone.

As a special treat for the team, Martin wrote his own ad copy for his photo. With the question, "What brings you to tears of joy?" in mind, he retreated to his table and started composing a poem (or lyrics if you will) that captured his current state of mind. After a while, he presented his composition which stressed that we should never lose hope on love for we will love again.

JULY 5: GLORIA DIAZ

Gloria, Hallelujah! Gloria Diaz recaptured her days as the country's first Ms. Universe in this photo shoot. With hair falling close to her face and a glittering crown atop her head, she transported everyone back to when she won the title in 1969. She proved that she still has what it takes as she showed her bearing and exuded great presence on- and off-cam.

JULY 7: KRIS AQUINO

Ms. Kris Aquino. The Tears schedule for Kris Aquino came at the end of a long day of shooting with Jun de Leon. The team was grateful that she agreed to do the shoot, despite her own hectic schedule. Still, she gave it her best as she posed for the campaign. With her own mood music playing in the background, several teardrops, one after the other, started inching down her face.

AUGUST 30: RICHARD GOMEZ & LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

Golden couple. Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres-Gomez are every inch the movie star couple. Both towering and beautiful, they seemed larger-than-life as they entered the room together. But more than their complimentary physical appearance (Richard's dark features to Lucy's porcelain attributes), they radiated the feeling of a couple truly in love.

Throughout the shoot, the couple made phone calls to their daughter Juliana to check on her. At one point, even as Lucy was already in front of the camera, she asked her husband to call their daughter. Their shoots were done without any problems. And in the end, they charmingly thanked the team for asking them to be part of the campaign.

AUGUST 31: SHARON CUNETA

Last tears from Mega. Sharon Cuneta was the last photo shoot for the campaign. Like Kris before her, the megastar shoot happened after a series of other sessions with Jun de Leon. Sharon was already seated in front of the camera, when the team arrived. After warm introductions, the shoot started and Jun fired specific instructions for her to follow.

The idea was to have a three-page layout of Sharon slowly moving her head from side to front while revealing a tear falling from her face. Sharon took the directions in and executed them to perfection. At first from the side. Click! And then a little movement towards the camera. Click! Now, looking straight into the lens. Click! And finally, tears of hope.

Over the course of these photo shoots, the celebrity supporters of "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign showed many characteristics unique in every person. Shared stories, insights, jokes and laughter were treasured ingredients of what ironically is called the Tears campaign. The experience and privilege to work with a group laden with unimaginable star power had proven to be a real privilege. The support that the country's well-known personalities exhibited encouraged us to forge ahead and try and make a difference. We thank all of them for joining the campaign and sharing their talents and likeness for the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign.

With the ad campaign being just the beginning of our nation's battle against corneal blindness, everyone is invited to help do their part by signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead. For additional information, please call (632) 893.5995 or email [illegible]

'60s fashion back in style

TIE ME UP! Ribbons are the best accent for 2005 from gowns to bags.

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

FASHION DESIGNER MONIQUE **Lhuillier** unveiled her spring-summer 2006 collection during the New York Fashion Week in Bryant Park last Tuesday. In attendance were high-profile celebrities and major buyers for high-end retail stores and boutiques.

For the first time, there was a large Philippine presence in the show. Besides **Michel** and **Amparito Lhuillier**, there were First Daughter **Luli Arroyo**, **Minnie Osmeña**, **Joanne de Asis Benitez**, **Monique Villonco**, **Tunting Cruz-Matters**, **Ricco Ocampo** and **Doris Magsaysay Ho**. Representing the media were **Daphne Oseña Paez** and hubby **Patrick Paez**.

The reviews of her show were ecstatic.

Monique Lhuillier's show on Tuesday was from the '60s, with mod swing jackets paired with straight skirts and white heels. However, her real forte is evening wear, and stylist **Phillip Bloch** said these dresses are "as pretty coming as they are going."

From the New York Times: "Like other designers this season, Monique Lhuillier seems to have looked at books of '60s Hollywood costumes. Her bias-cut dresses with swimsuit backs were lovely, though, and day skirts with fluted hems (shown with girlish organza blouses) were a nice change for her."

And the Boston Herald: "Monique Lhuillier got into the swing of spring yesterday, presenting a lovely '60s-inspired collection dominated by A-line skirts, jackets and dresses. The notion of bigger-is-better also played out in white-and-pink caviar tulle cocktail dresses."

Monique's mother, Amparito, said many of the Philippine contingent went to lunch after the show, including Monique and husband **Tom Bugbee**. The couple are expecting their first child, a boy, by mid-2006.

What's hot right now

Here's a rundown of what's in-demand in the fashion/social scene: '50s style (think **Grace Kelly** and **Hitchcock** movies) which is evident in the Ralph Lauren fall-winter 2005 ads... Black has been resurrected after four seasons of color... Embassy (it doesn't get hotter than this)... the newly renovated Carbon store in Greenbelt... People's Palace restaurant... the jeans from Mix store (think: Seven, Citizens of Humanity, Edwin)... the Salcedo and Legaspi Village markets... Art Deco style jewelry... patent shoes by **Roger Vivier** (the HK shop recently opened and the shoes cost at least $1,000)... Striptease exercise... The return of the preppy look (think Hackett, Lacoste, Ralph Lauren colored shirts with the collar turned up)... Vogue men's magazine... **Mig Ayesa**—whom every Filipino is praying for so he could win the INXS-Rockstar contest... the much-awaited opening of Zara in Rockwell Plant Mall in October... "Desperate Housewives" Season 2 premier in one week (get your Limewire or Kazaa ready, or however you get your copy)... and **Michael Bubló**'s concert on Oct. 12 at the Araneta Coliseum (you can't miss this one!).

HOT OFF THE CATWALK. Monique Lhuillier's spring-summer 2006 look

Roses and ribbons

About a month ago we reported how bows would be de rigueur look for the last quarter of the year. Now, roses are also in-demand accessories. It seems that every major designer had a convention and decided that ribbons and roses should be not only in accessories but dresses, belts, bags, shoes, jackets and even hair. Since you have three months till 2006, it's time to change your look and these are the TNT's top choices.

What's new in Hong Kong. I hadn't been to Hong Kong in ages, maybe its proximity to Manila made me complacent. Likewise, Shanghai has seemingly eclipsed Hong Kong when it comes to excitement and offerings.

Two weeks ago I made it back to HK and was in for a surprise. I stayed at the Ritz Carlton, which has become my favorite hotel in HK for its accessibility, service and Old World charm.

HK, like New York City, is forever expanding and growing. In the hotel scene, two of the most prominent names in luxury hotels have recently opened.

I visited and met with the communications director of the Mandarin Oriental hotel at the Landmark who toured me around. It's the most conveniently located hotel, being in the Landmark. This 113-room hotel's architectural style is very modern with clean lines and hi-tech gadgetry. It boasts the largest rooms in all of Asia. It is currently the most expensive hotel in Asia with a US$550 price tag for the deluxe rooms. Even the annual membership of the fitness center is at HK$88,000 (P677,600).

When I was there, the hotel was operating at full capacity, with most of the people coming from Europe and the US.

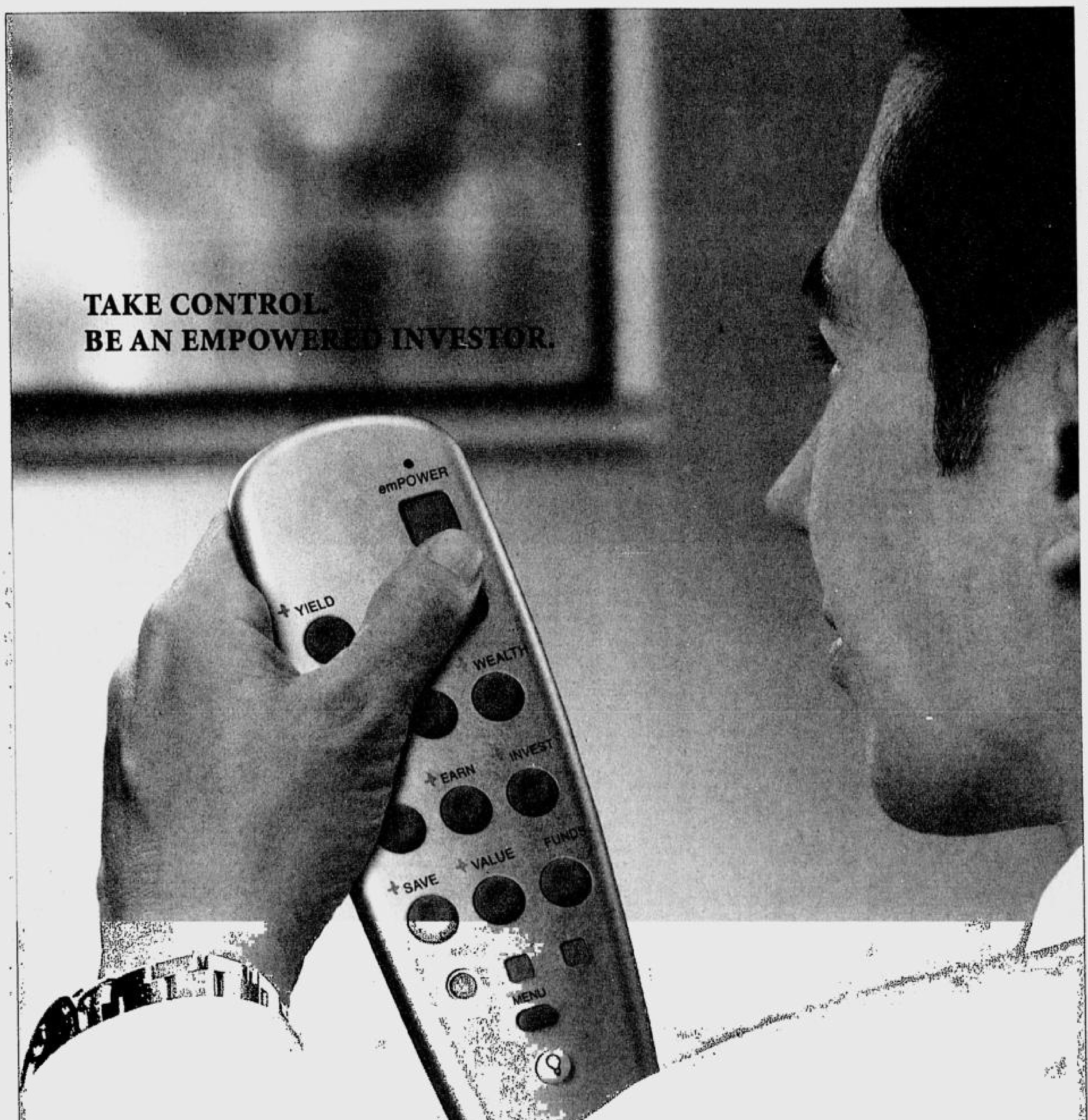
The other Mandarin Hotel is still there so you can now choose between Old World style and modern cutting-edge.

The other hotel is the Four Seasons near the IFC (where you take the airport express in Central). It has 399 rooms done in the contemporary style and is equipped with the latest in communications and entertainment technology. Published rate is from $400 up.

On the retail front, the popular and trendy

'60S FASHION/ H2

MORE lavish ribbons



The power to grow your wealth is rewarding. This is especially true in a constantly changing and dynamic investment environment. That's why you need to be ready to act as the investment market upgrades from Common Trust Fund (CTF) to Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF).

It would be wise, then, to take a closer look at the UITF made available through the American Express Bank Peso Cash Plus and Dollar Wealth Plus Deposit Accounts.

UITF	Available through American Express Bank	[illegible]
Philippine Dollar Fixed Income Fund	Dollar Wealth Plus Account	11.79%
Peso Short Term Fixed Income Fund	Peso Cash Plus Account	8.47%

*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

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American Express Bank
A Savings Bank

INQUIRER
JOB Market

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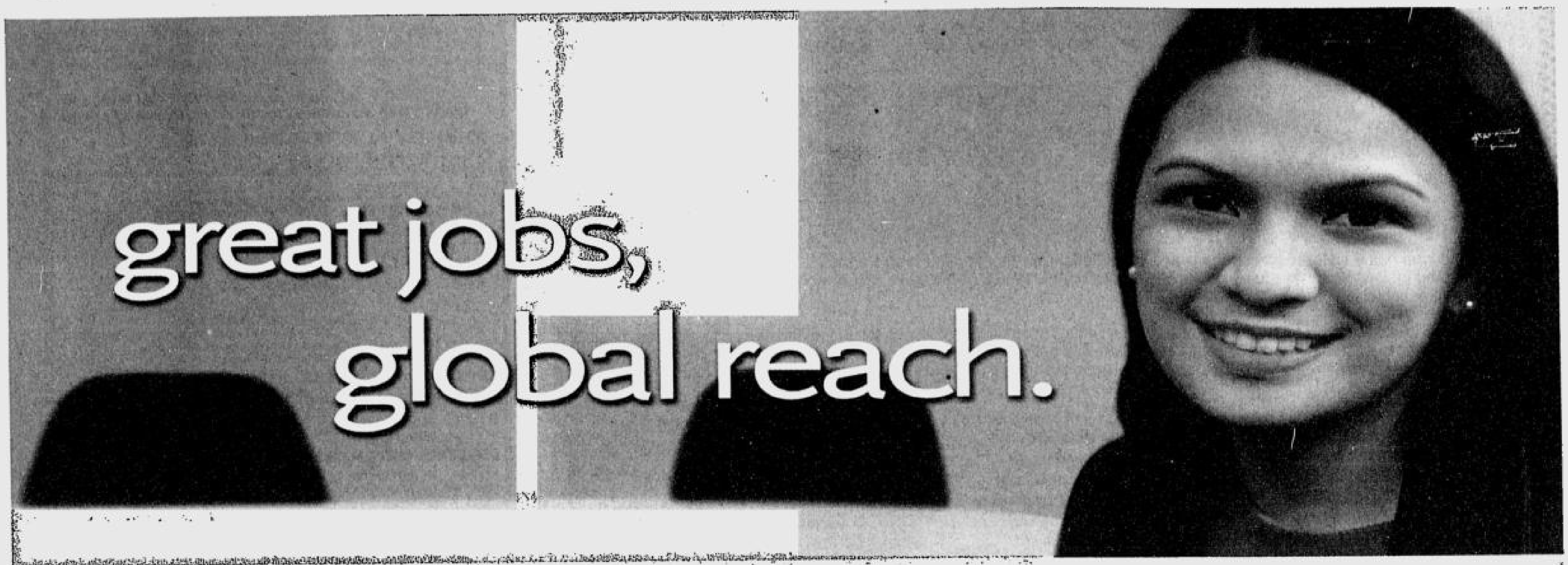

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Multiple Inbound Accounts:
- Previous experience in a shift-work environment preferred
- Preferably a graduate of any 4-year course
- With excellent communication skills in English
- Can interpret technical instructions

Airline Reservations:
- With at least 6 months work experience with the airline industry
- Familiar with Galileo or Apollo reservation software

PASAY CITY CMC >>>

Team Leaders
- Minimum 2 years Call Center Management or Team Leader experience within a high-tech corporation
- Shift management capabilities and ability to supervise varying skills of employees
- Analytical ability to decipher statistical performance reports

Workforce Planning Supervisor
- 1-Year work experience in an OSC role or similar.
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in a Call Center Industry
- Experience with an advanced PABX, Call Management Systems, Spreadsheets, Forecasting and Scheduling systems

Workforce Planning Specialist
- College graduate degree-qualified
- Minimum 1-2 years work experience in the Call Center Industry
- Ability to comprehend and apply statistical analysis techniques to business requirements

Site Technology Lead
- 2 years technology experience in a Call Center or technology environment, with 3-5 years in an IT management role
- Bachelors degree in Computer Science, or Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)
- Demonstrate expertise in Windows operating systems and networking support

IT Desktop - Senior
- At least 1-year experience in PC hardware and software setup, installation, configuration, troubleshooting, and maintenance
- Bachelors degree in Computer Science, or minimum certification as a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP)
- Experience with Microsoft TCP/IP

Tech Support Associate
- At least 1 year experience in PC hardware and software setup, installation, configuration, troubleshooting, and maintenance
- Strong understanding of various Windows operating systems
- Ability to read and write clear and concise technical documents

Site Director
- Minimum 7 years of proven experience running a large Call Center operation; preferably in the outsourced environment
- A history of excellent interpersonal and customer interaction skills that includes communications, presentation and conflict resolution
- Experience in current core procedures and processes within a CMC structure

Instructional Systems Designer
- 4 Years of Training and Education Product Development
- 3 Years of direct eLearning development experience
- Understanding of the most useful impact of Instructional Design Methodology in eLearning

Training and Quality Manager
- Comprehensive experience with all aspects of training and quality assurance practices and processes
- Must have knowledge of HMO-, POS- and PPO-managed carelines of business
- Knowledge and experience of HIPA rules and regulations preferred
- Working knowledge of adult learning principles and accelerated learning practices

Training Supervisor
- At least 6 months experience in a Call Center
- With previous supervisory and training experience
- Adapts strategies and solutions that are consistent with project goals and objectives

Trainers
- College graduate degree-qualified
- Worked in a Call Center environment for a minimum of 3 months
- Previous training or presentation experience

RTM Specialist
- College Graduate degree-qualified
- Minimum 1-2 year work experience in the Call Centre Industry
- Strong mathematical skills and demonstrated ability to work in a disciplined manner to strict procedures

Quality Assurance Specialists
- Experience with training and/or coaching. Previous Quality Assurance experience preferred
- Identify areas of development and opportunities to improve processes
- Excellent listening skills and attention to detail

Accounts Payable Analyst
- BS Accountancy graduate or the equivalent
- 1-3 years of Finance experience
- Working knowledge of Oracle AP module required

Purchasing Specialist
- At least college graduate with BA/BS or equivalent work experience
- Experience in managing procurement processes and issues
- Knowledge of the Oracle Purchasing application

Facilities Lead
- Strong interpersonal relations and leadership skills
- Directional/strategic & financial planning ability
- Manages group functions, maintenance, security, cleaning, construction, moves and relocations

Executive Assistant
- Proficient in Microsoft products
- Excellent oral, interpersonal, telephone, and communication skills
- 5 to 7 years experience supporting a top executive

Workforce Planning Manager (FORT)
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in a Call Centre Industry in a workforce planning role or similar
- Experience with an advanced PABX, Call Management Systems, Spreadsheets, Forecasting and Scheduling system
- 3-5 years experience with Blue Pumpkin workforce management tool or equivalent

<<< NOVALICHES CMC

Senior Operations Manager
- Required skill(s): leadership, management, customer service
- At least 2-4 years experience as an Operations Manager in a high volume quality-driven Contact Center
- Preferably with work experience from a Fortune 1000 company or an outsource service center

Operations Manager
- Minimum 3 years leadership experience within a service-driven or high-tech corporation
- 2 years experience as a Manager in a high volume quality-driven contact center
- Shift management capabilities and ability to supervise varying skills of employees

Account Manager
- Minimum 2 years experience in professional organization management
- Minimum 2 years experience in client coordination/management in a services industry
- Call Center experience, specifically within a management or support function

Training & Quality Manager
- Comprehensive knowledge of quality assurance practices and processes
- Quality background preferred (Six Sigma, ISO, COPC, or similar discipline)
- Minimum of 3 years experience in all aspects of training in a customer service environment

ACE Site Project Manager
- Must possess excellent communication, organization and project management skills
- 1-2 Years project or project management experience, involving offshore support
- 3 Years experience and knowledge training and quality teams and processes

Quality Assurance Manager
- Minimum 1-5 years experience in an equivalent role in a Call Center
- Proven experience in document control, quality management system concepts
- Expertise in Avaya CentreVu, eQuality Balance (WITNESS), NICE Universe, Etc.

Quality Assurance Supervisor
- Minimum 1-3 years experience in an Inbound Service desk or technical call center experience
- Excellent English communication, supervisory and time management skills
- Knowledge of Six Sigma, Total Quality Management and other quality concepts

Team Leaders
- Minimum 1 year experience in Call Center Management role
- Shift management capabilities and ability to supervise varying skills of employees
- Analytical ability to decipher statistical performance reports

Product Trainers
- Technical instructor in an instructor-led classroom environment experience is required
- Supervisory experience preferably in a Call Center environment
- Very good presentation, coaching and mentoring skills is required

OSC Specialist
- Minimum 1-2 years work experience in the Call Centre Industry
- Ability to comprehend and apply statistical analysis techniques to business requirements
- Strong mathematical and analytical ability; disciplined to work under strict procedures

Real-time Monitoring Specialists
- Ability to comprehend and apply statistical analysis techniques to business requirements
- Strong mathematical and analytical ability; disciplined to work under strict procedures
- Computer literacy to company standard, including typing speed of 30+ wpm

ACE Trainer
- Has good foundation in adult learning concepts
- Exceptional presentation, coaching and mentoring skills is required
- Previous experience/training in the following fields will also be beneficial:

- Accent Reduction
- Broadcasting
- Speech Therapy
- English/Grammar teaching
- Public Speaking
- Voice Coach

Ace Coach
- Experience in training, coaching and / or evaluating voice and accent
- Experienced facilitator who can implement programs in a rapidly changing environment

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Site 2: Building F, SM Corporate Offices
1000 Bay Boulevard, Bay City, Pasay City

Site 3: Second Level, Robinsons Place
Novaliches Highway, Quezon City

You are also welcome to visit the
following TeleTech Recruitment Centers:

4/F PHILCOX Building, 172 Salcedo Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Room 202, Manila Luxury Condominium, Pearl Drive
corner Gold Loop Streets, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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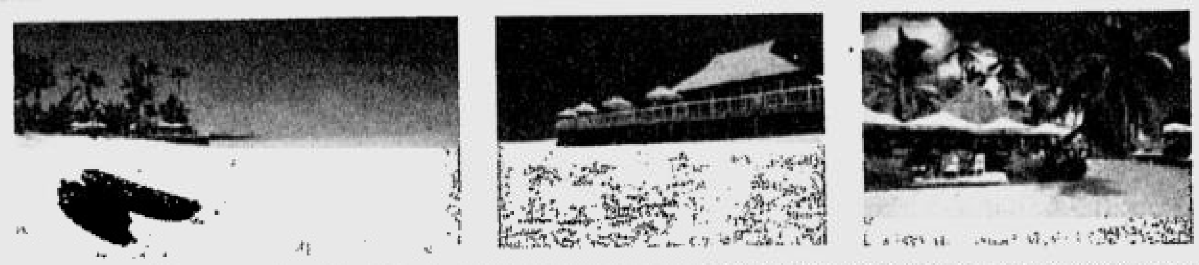
MANAGERIAL

The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa

The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa

Set in the heart of the South Pacific, The Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa is a leading 157 room, 4 star resort located on the beautiful tropical island of Rarotonga, the capital of the Cook Islands. This is a vibrant, Polynesian-style full-service resort attracting an international clientele.



The Rarotongan has a sister resort on the island of Aitutaki, a 45 minute flight from Rarotonga. The Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa is a 36 bungalow resort with full facilities set directly on the shores of Aitutaki Lagoon, now considered by many to be the world's most beautiful lagoon.

The **COOK ISLANDS** is a self-governing group of 15 islands in free association with New Zealand (which retains responsibility for defence), and is located just west of Tahiti, about half-way between New Zealand and Hawaii. We are enjoying considerable growth and high occupancies at both our sister resorts and are now able to offer the following exciting positions;

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Resort Manager
Front Office Manager
Duty Manager
Chief Security Officer
Training Manager
Quality Assurance Manager
Recruitment Officer
Resort Photographer
Database Programmer
Webmaster

Director of Sales & Marketing
Sales Manager
Marketing Manager
Reservations Manager
Assistant Housekeeper
Housekeeping Supervisor
Laundry Manager
Fitness Center Manager
Spa Manager
Spa Therapist
Security Supervisor

Food & Beverage Manager
Executive Chef
Restaurant Manager
Bar Manager
Sous Chef
Sommelier
Pastry Chef
Chief Steward
Stewards
Accountant/Accounts Clerk
Purchasing Administrator

HOTEL ENGINEERING & MAINTENANCE

Chief Engineer
Maintenance Shift Manager
Maintenance Shift Engineer
Civil Engineer
Construction Project Manager
Interior Designer

Architectural Draftsman
Architect
Quantity Surveyor
Head Gardener
Gardener
Landscape Architect

Class A: Carpenter
Class A: Electrician
Class A: Tiler
Class A: Plumber
Class A: Painter

Extensive experience and relevant qualifications in the same industry or equivalent is required for all positions.

Shortlisted candidates are expected to take the **INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE & TESTING SYSTEM (IELTS)** and must have a minimum score of 6.5. Payment for IELTS (USD$200) will be paid by the applicant directly to the accredited testing center. This will be reimbursed upon passing this test.

A 2 year contract will be offered to the successful applicant. All positions are single appointments (ie no spouses or families are able to join the applicant in Rarotonga).

Interested applicants are invited to send a full resume with a covering letter, stating which vacancy they are interested in, salary package required, and a recent photograph to : applications@smithbell.com.ph. Interview invitations and status updates may be sent via email. Please use the **JOB/TITLE POSITION** on the subject-line of your email application.

Should you wish to send your application through mail/courier, please include the following:

- A detailed copy of your resume – work history and qualifications
- Copies of relevant transcripts, certificates, diplomas etc.
- 4 copies 2x2 ID photo and virus-free diskette with resume saved in Word format.

NO WALK-IN APPLICANTS WILL BE ENTERTAINED

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STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEERS

- Registered Civil Engineer, not more than 35 years old
- Knowledgeable in STAAD Pro, ETABS and other engineering design softwares
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Experience in the following areas an advantage
  - Industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants refineries
  - Precast concrete detailing
- Can work with minimum supervision

CIVIL WORKS DESIGNERS

- Registered Civil Engineer, not more than 35 years old
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Land Development Desktop
- Previous experience on US projects an advantage
- Can work with minimum supervision

PROJECT ENGINEERS

- Registered Civil Engineer with at least 3 to 5 years of experience in Project Construction and Management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

X-STEEL DETAILERS

- BS Architecture or any engineering course graduate
- Experience in industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants refineries an advantage
- Can produce structural steel fabrication outputs
- Knowledgeable in X-Steel software
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

CADD OPERATORS

- BS Architecture or any engineering course graduate
- Not more than 35 years old
- Proficient in the use of AutoCAD, Architectural Desktop, 3D Studio or any other engineering\architectural software
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Experience on precast concrete detailing an advantage

PROGRAMMERS

- BS Computer Science or equivalent
- Not more than 28 years old
- Proficient in C++, Perl, ASP, PHP, VB and .NET scripting languages
- Can work with minimum supervision

Other Positions:

ARCHITECTS \ MECHANICAL \ ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

- Registered Professional
- With at least 3 years relevant experience
- Excellent oral and communication skills
- Knowledge in computer software applications
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

Qualified applicants may apply personally or send their updated resumé with application letter to:

The Human Resources Department
3rd Floor ATC Centre, 148 Katipunan Ave.,
St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4371218-19\9139920\9139879
hrd@escaengineers.com

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- Analytical and methodical worker
- Resourceful, creative and innovative problem solver
- Enthusiastic, curious, results-driven and persistent
- College graduate
- Willing to work shifts (night shifts included)

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ALSO NEEDED : ***Internet Researchers, Transcribers, Team Leaders***

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- Good command of written and verbal English

J2ME UI DEVELOPER (JD1)

The ideal candidate will design, develop and maintain a J2ME interface for cellular phone Application

JAVA SERVER DEVELOPER (JD2)

The ideal candidate will create and maintain a Java Enterprise front-end server solution that will communicate with the cellular phone application and will interface with other servers via XML / SOAP.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have 5 years IT experience, specifically in the following:
  - Applications development for real time systems
  - Middleware, socket programming, OOP and J2ME architecture experience is a strong plus
  - Multi-tiered systems design
  - XML, CVS, CMVC, web services using JMS or HTTP transport experience is preferred.
  - Expert in Java, swing and threading
- With hands-on proficiency in Visual C++ 6.0, Microsoft.NET 2003, MS SQL Server or Oracle
- Good command of written and verbal English

Priority will be given to candidates with past experience developing cell phone applications, games or engines.

Email resumes to : resumes-02@askmenow.com

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Abbott Laboratories Philippines will soon be spinning off a new company called **HOSPIRA**. **HOSPIRA's** presence in the Philippines signifies a milestone. While **HOSPIRA's** strategic intent remains that of a broad-based health care company with a mix of proprietary pharmaceuticals and advanced technology medical products built upon high-growth platforms, it will solely focus on research & development offering products used particularly in hospitals.

As **HOSPIRA** advances to build its organization in the Philippines, we will need the right people who will help us deliver our promise, and be among the pioneers. We seek visionaries eager to capitalize on opportunity and team players who embrace each challenge with energy to join us as:

Professional Hospital Representatives

(Across Philippines)

Qualifications:

- University graduates, any four or five year degree courses;
- Strong interpersonal and team skills – actively participated in extra curricular activities in school or community;
- Very good communication and presentation skills with the ability and aptitude to learn and understand effectively information of medical science nature;
- Driving experience required;
- Importantly, must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines;
- Provincial candidates are encouraged to apply;
- With or without previous work experience, recent graduates are also encouraged to apply;
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Outlook, Excel, Powerpoint, Word.

Interested applicants should:

Submit an updated resume with colored ID picture and transcript of records to:

Human Resources Dept (Code:PHR)
Abbott Laboratories Philippines
102 EDSA, Mandaluyong City

OR

Send resume thru e-mail to:
teresita.bernardo@abbott.com

OR

log on to:
www.abbottrecruitment.com.ph

ACCOUNTS SUPERVISOR

☐ Female, not more than 26 years old
☐ BS Accountancy graduate
☐ Willing to conduct on-site visits
☐ Computer literate, strong communication skills, team player
☐ Detail-oriented, self-motivated, resourceful, hardworking, systematic, and can work under pressure with less supervision

E-mail resumé to: leigh861@yahoo.com

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Compensation, commensurate with experience

Human Resource Rep.
Graduate of any HR related courses or psychology

Network Engineer/ Administrator.
Male/ Female, with good command of English;
Proficient in Networking Tech., TCP/IP, Web, DNS, Email, windows 2000/ 2003 server, SQL server, ASP, PHP;
working knowlege in Linux a plus,
LAN WAN integration and implementation.
Compensation: commensurate with experience

Send your Resumés and transcript of records to
P.O. Box 550 Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. or call Tel: (632) 727-1718, 727-1603

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With pleasing personality and excellent customer relation skills

Please send your resumé with recent 2x2 picture to
The Human Resource Department
Level 5 Wellness Zone Shangri-La Plaza Mall Mandaluyong City
email urban_spa@yahoo.com or fax 687-61-96
visit www.urbanspaphil.com

Teleperformance
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

CALL CENTER AGENTS
(Part-time/Full time; Inbound/Outbound)
College level / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in varying shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and have energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skills

DATABASE PROGRAMMER
Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL,Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client-Server environment

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS
Basic Network (Data) and Telecoms Troubleshooting; familiarity with the Avaya switch; knowledgeable in Windows and Linux Server; basic troubleshooting on workstation hardware; familiarity with different services such as Mail, NTP, FTP, DHCP, active directory both under Windows and Linux; minimum of one (1) year experience in related field

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSOCIATES
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALISTS
Graduate of a Bachelor's / College in Human Resource Management or its equivalent; good understanding of the Philippine Labor Laws; must have at least three (3) years experience in the same field; with outstanding written and verbal communication skills; with events organization skills; with pleasing personality

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
College graduate; must have at least six (6) months experience in the same field; highly proficient in Microsoft Office especially in Excel and Powerpoint; preferably has an experience working with expatriates

All positions require excellent communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

Be all that you can be...

APPLY in BUSINESS ATTIRE
Bring a copy of your resume at the:

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
4/F Octagon Building, San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Recruiting schedule
Monday - Friday (except holidays)
8:00am - 5:00pm

UPCOMING JOB FAIRS
September 21-22
STI Job Fair, MegaTrade Hall 1-Megamall
September 23-24
Philippine Star Classifinder & Jobstreet,
MegaTrade Hall 2-Megamall

September 22-23
I.T. and Call Center Job Fair, Iligan City

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Recruitment Center opening soon at the new EDSA Central Mall

Hotline: (02) 632-9000 Ext 408, 409 & 410
Ext 416 (6am-9am only)
www.teleperformance.ph
careers@teleperformance.ph
(please indicate the position in the subject field)
http://www.jobstreet.com/ph/teleperformance.htm

Be the one !!!

SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- Preferably graduate of I.T. related course or major in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Excellent comunication skills
- 2 years working experience in supporting corporate LAN/WAN/hardware/software
- Highly proficient in Windows NT, Windows 2000 and XP
- Hands-on experience in supporting PABX and Telco equipment
- Hands-on experience in routers and VOIP equipment is a plus factor
- Work experience in a supporting Call Center infra is a big advantage

PROGRAMMERS
- At least 2 years experience in applications development
- Experienced in developing client, server or web - based applications
- Proficient in the following development tools: Visual Basic, VB Script, ASP, .NET, Lotus Notes, Java/J2EE
- Knowledgeable with the following database platforms: MS SQL 7/2000, MS Access

COPYWRITER/TECHNICAL WRITER
- M/F, Preferably Degree in Journalism or Mass Communication
- Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in the same discipline
- Should possess excellent communications & organizational skills
- Should attach a copy of portfolio together with their application form

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Advertising or any related course from a reputable school
- Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in the same discipline
- Should possess excellent communications, written & organizational skills
- Proficiency in graphic web based software is a must i.e., Corel Draw, Photoshop, Illustrator, Pagemaker, Dreamweaver, Flash, Freehand and Frontpage
- Knowledgeable in copywriting is an advantage; can work with minimum supervision; must be resourceful and creative
- Should attach a copy of portfolio together with their application form

Applicants may apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long brown envelope: resume with full detailed job description and detailed contact info or e-mail application together with scanned photo to **hrd@mannasoft.com**. Deadline of submission is on or before **September 23, 2005, Friday.**
Previous applicants need not apply.

mannasoft technology corporation
2/F Republic Glass Bldg., 196 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

J-SYS Philippines

J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, which is engaged in the design and installation of computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) systems, project management systems (PMS), engineering process control systems (ES) and development of applications software related with ORACLE DB, announces the recruitment of

10 SYSTEMS ANALYSTS/ SENIOR PROGRAMMERS

to expand its technical base utilizing programming languages such as JAVA, VISUAL BASIC, C++.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male or female, 27 -30 years old
- Graduates of Business, Engineering and computer courses with impressive scholastic records
- With at least 5 years of professional experience in programming and full development lifecycle
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication and inter-personal skills
- Task and improvement oriented, a leader and a team player and could work under extreme pressure, local and overseas
- Has strong desire to learn and master the Japanese Language (Nihongo)

To qualified candidates, we offer you long-term employment and professional growth in the global systems engineering field, attractive compensation and fringe benefits package, as well as overseas assignment opportunities.

Interested applicants may send their curriculum vitae with detailed work experience and recent 2" x 2" photo to:

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P. O. Box 132
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
Tel. No. (632) 772 3408/12 or E-mail to: hrd@jpi.com.ph

J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC. is a member of the JGC Group of Japan - one of the world's largest engineering design, procurement and construction companies.
URL: **www.jpi.com.ph**

Come and Join our Team

[illegible] EXECUTIVE
Male 25-32 years old,
College level,
articulate in English,
Good Salesmanship

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Male/Female
25-32 yrs. old,
Acctg. Grad./Computer
Lit. w/ exp. Invty. Control

[illegible]

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Our client, a premier sales and customer service outsourcer for one of the world's most successful brands, is in need of Technical Help desk Agents.

The Technical Help Desk Agent's role is to ensure proper computer operation so that end users can accomplish business tasks.

Successful candidates should possess at least 3 years of relevant application support experience with main stream software applications such as Windows, MS Office, Peoplesoft CRM, Vantive, Interactive Intelligence etc. Active Directory, Citrix, TN3270 Software, Internet and others.

He must have the ability to communicate effectively and comfortably in American English. Ability to present ideas in user-friendly language to non-technical staff and end users is also important.

Previous call center experience is an advantage but not required.

Please e-mail, hand-carry or send applications to :

Qinteraction Philippines Inc.

Human Resources Department
8th Floor, BPI Buendia Center
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200
E-mail Address:
HR@Qinteraction.com
Web Address:
http://www.qinteraction.com

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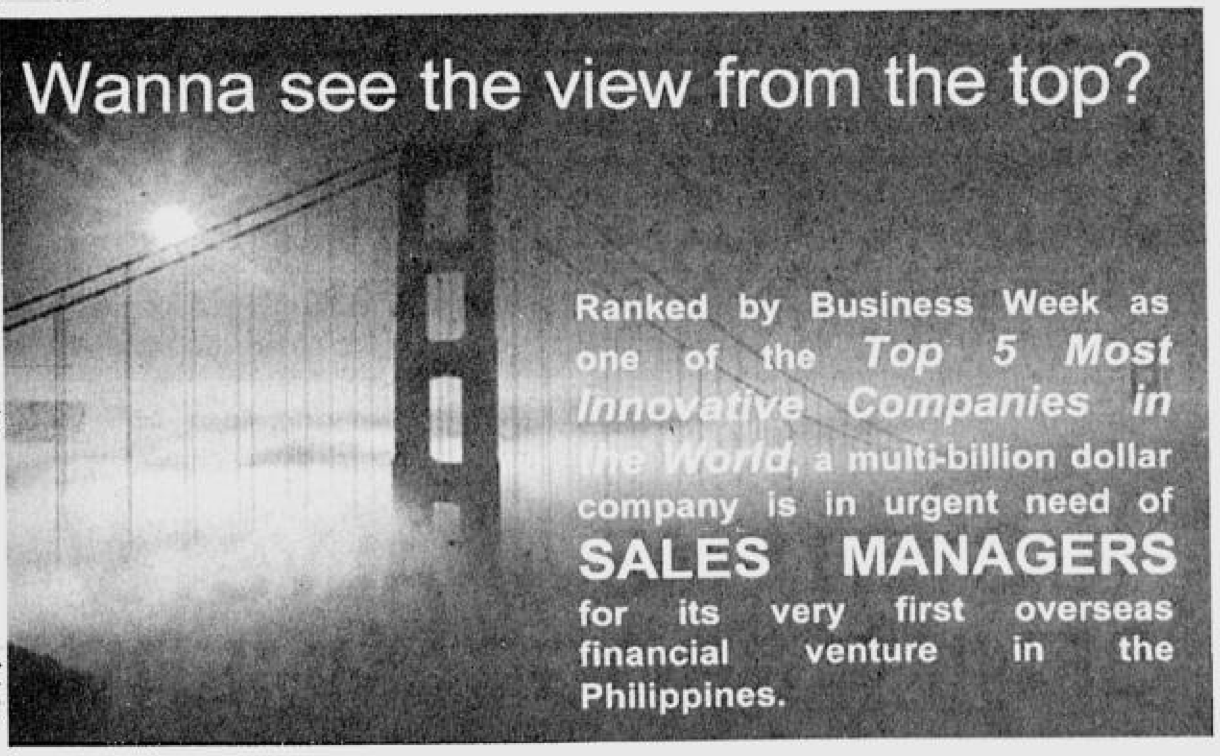

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Sales Managers

Candidate must possess the following:

- **30-45 years old, graduates of top universities in the country**
- **Successful professionals earning at least P40,000 a month**
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For inquiries, you may call 840-4895 and look for Christine Bañares.

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(Lihir Gold Operations on Behalf of Lihir Gold Limited. A world-class mining company employ 2,800 person at sight of Papua New Guinea)

***PROCESS PLANT SHIFT SUPERVISORS** - 5-10 YRS. EXP. AS A shift Supervisor in a complex hydrometallurgical plant, or in a general foreman role in a smaller gold plant. Knowledge of pressure oxidation will be highly regarded.

* **SENIOR MINING ENGINEERS** - Mining Eng'r. g grad., 5 yrs. exp. in a mining operation, knowledge of the MS Office and mining software suites will be high regarded, a track record of working with multi-disciplinary teams, effective communicator of complex issues, both through written reports and presentations in English is a must.

* **MINING ENGINEERS** – Mining Engineering grad. at least 2 yrs. exp. in a mining operation

* **SENIOR MINE SURVEYORS** – Degree in Surveying and registered Mine Surveyor, exp. with Mine Sight system, pit design, drills and blast design with Mine Planning CAD System is essential, able to manage multiple tasks to competing deadlines accomplish in written and oral English, while the ability to speak PIDGIN will be highly regarded. Ability and drive to lead a team in a technically challenging and geographically remote environment.

* **MINE PLANNING ENGINEERS** (Operational) – Exp. in short Term Planning in a mine using large trucks and shovels (135T trucks or larger & large shovels), extensive exp. in using MineSite and Medsystem software or similar package and the ability to troubleshoot problems in medsystem., exp. in drills & BLAST design in large open cut mine and with strong leadership skills, strong decesion making skills and will act frontline supervisor desirable.

- **MINE PLANNING ENGINEERS** (Technical) – 3-5 yrs. exp. in OPEN CUT GOLD, using current mine planning software.

*****FOR SINGAPORE*****

Our client "LESUS EMPLOYMENT AGENCY PTE. LTD" urgently needs the ff:

* **MECHANICAL AUTO CAD DRAFTSMAN** * **6G TIG WELDERS**
* **MECHANICAL SUPERVISOR** * **PIPE FITTERS**

The above workers should have experience in the oil and refinery industry; At Least 5 years exp. w/ good communication in English. Ex-Abroad is an Advantage. Deployment ASAP for those Qualified Applicants with complete documents.

*****FOR UNITED ARAB EMIRATES*****

Our client "SODEXHO COMPANY" urgently needs the ff:

* **FINANCE MANAGER** – CPA, CMA , 5 yrs. exp. Must be computer literate & excellent in various accounting software. Exp. in Hotel Industry is an advantage, with good leadership and MAN management skills, good interpersonal skills.

OMRAN SULTAN AL HALLAMI COMPANY

* **FIBER GLASS MAKERS** – 5 yrs. exp. in the field of specialization
* **WELDERS** – exp. in "MIG" and "ARC" welding for at least five (5) years.
* **METAL SHEET FOLDING MACHINE OPTRS.** – 5 yrs. exp. in the field of specialization
* **MECHANIC** – with experience in diesel, petrol engines and expert in modification.
* **AUTO BODY BUILDERS/PAINTERS** - 5 yrs. exp. in the field of specialization

KELVIN Catering Services – in U.A.E. (Reg.# 10067585)

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* **ROOMBOYS** * **KITCHEN EQUIP. TECH.** ***STORE KEEPER**
* **WAITERS** * **CAPTAIN WAITERS** * **COOK** ***BARBERS**

- High School Grad, 5'5" in height.., w/ Pleasing Personality, 38 yrs. old & below, w/ 5 yrs. exp.

*****FOR BAHRAIN*****

Our clients **R.A. MANNAI** (BATELCO) and **NAS COMPANY** needs the following:

* **QUANTITY SURVEYORS** - B.S.C.E, with good exp. in dealing with all QS works including budget cost estimating, preparing cost plans, life cycle costing, taking-off quantities using SMM7 and CESMM3 and post contract works including contractual correspondence based on JCT, FIDIC, ICE , etc. and settlements of final accounts.

***** FOR KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA*****

Our client AL KHALIFA RECRUITMENT OFFICE in Dammam urgently needs the ff:

***INSTRUMENTATION TECH.** ***TIG WELDERS** ***LETTER EMBOSSERS**
***TRANSMISSION MECHANICS** * **AUTO ELECTRICIANS** * **AUTO MECH'S.**
* **AUTO BODY BUILDER** * **AUTO PAINTERS** * **GRAPHIC ARTISTS**

SHOAA AL MARWA OPTICLS in Riyadh, KSA (Accre. # 74142)

* **OPTOMETRIST(F/M)**– Bachelors Degree w/ at least 5 years exp. after post-grad.

AL SUBHI MEDICAL CENTER, KSA (Accre. # 72145)

* **STAFF NURSES (F)** - 2 yrs. Training & exp. in Clinical & Hospital Works, w/ PRC
* **X-RAY TECHNICIANS.(F)** - BS in Radiology Technology with 3 yrs. experience.

AL TAKHSEES MEDICAL CENTER, KSA (Accre. # 74697)

* **DENTAL TECH.** (F) – Diploma in Dental Technology, at least 2 yrs. experience
* **BEAUTY CONSULTANT** (F) - BSN GRADUATE w/ 3 yrs. experience DERMA CARE

AL NASSER MEDICAL CENTER, KSA (Accre. # 72804)

***DENTIST (F/M)** – Diploma in Dentistry w/ 3 yrs. minimum experience.
***ORTHODONTIST (F/M)** -Post-Grad. Cert. in ORTHODONTIST 3 yrs exp. plus 5 yrs. exp. as Dentist,
* **NURSES (F)** – BSN Graduate, at least 2 yrs exp., with PRC LICENSE

AL ASSBAKH TRADING & CONT.(Reg.#10011561) in K.S.A.

* **LABORATORY ENGR.** – BSCE Graduate, 5 yrs. exp. in concrete, asphalt testing & conduct chemical analysis for soil and aggregates

AL-BUSHAIER TRADING & CONT. CO. (Accre # 74505) in K.S.A.

"READY VISA – DEPLOYMENT ASAP"

* **CHEMICAL ENGR.** - BS in Chemical Engineer or Chemist graduate, min. 3 yrs. exp. in water bottling factory; Good exp in chemical and microbiological water analysis; Good Knowledge in sterilizing water bottling factory lines by ozone and other chemical.

* **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL ENGR.** – BS in Electro-Mechanical Engineer graduate, min. 3 yrs. exp. in water bottling factory; Good exp in filing and blow molding machines for water bottling line. Preferably w/ exp in SIDEL Machines.

* **WATER TREATMENT PLANT TECHNICIAN** – W/ Diploma Degree holder, Min. 3 yrs. exp. in water bottling factory; Good exp in Control Panels, Doing Design, Assembly, Wiring, Testing & Commissioning of Panels.

* **WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR** – W/ Diploma in Water Treatment Operation. Must have min. 3 yrs. exp. in water treatment factory; Good exp and knowledge in R.O. Units, RUN, CLEAN, Maintain and Adjustment.

MAGIC TOUCH FASHION, KSA (Acre.#74780)

* **FASHION DESIGNERS(F/M)** * **EMBROIDERERS(M/F)**
* **TAILORS (M)** – (CUT & SEW) ladies dress
* **BEAUTICIAN** – 2 yrs. exp. as all around beautician. Good in make-up, hair styling, hair coloring, perming, cutting & highlights. Cosmetology Grad., 35 Y/O & below. Ex-abroad is an advantage but First Timer are welcome to apply.
* **DRESSMAKER/Cut & Sew** - Min. 5 yrs. exp. in cut & sew .Ex-abroad as advantage

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ACCION CONTRA EL HAMBRE

VACANCY

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

ACCIÓN CONTRA EL HAMBRE (ACH) is a Spanish humanitarian, non-governmental, non-religious, non-political and non-profit making organization.

ACH has been providing assistance to vulnerable populations in the Philippines since May 2000 in food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition.

POSITION:

ACH is looking for a Deputy Administrator (DA). The candidate will be assisting the Country Administrator (expatriate) on his global tasks: accounting, budget, financial, administrative and human resource management. The DA will be based in the office in Manila with regular travel to Mindanao.

We offer:

- Integration in an experienced and dynamic NGO.
- Real possibilities of professional development based on the performance.

We require:

- Degree in Economics, Management or similar.
- At least 2 years of experience in similar position, preferably acquired within an international firm or NGO with a multi-cultural environment.
- Excellent communication skills in English and Filipino, both oral and written. Knowledge Spanish and/or French an added advantage.
- High level of computer literacy (Word, Excel).
- Ability to work independently, integrated in a team and under pressure.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

October 7th, 2005

Applicants should forward their CV with a recent photo, a hand-written cover letter stating your motivation and current salary. Please also include your daytime telephone contact and professional references.

Applications should be sent to:

Susana dos Santos
Country Administrator
Acción contra el Hambre
Unit D, 12th Floor
PET Plans Tower
444 EDSA, Guadalupe,
Makati City 1211
achfilipinas@pldtdsl.net

Only short listed applicants will be notified.

A Greenhills-based company is in need of Experienced Medical Transcription Editors

- Medical background required
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Please email your resumé at
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Bring your resumé & school credentials at B8, L1, P4, Makiling St. Mountview Industrial Complex, Carmona,Cavite
046-430-3392

GENERAL

KFI

The Kasanyangan-Mindanao Foundation, Incorporated (KFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization engaged in social enterprise development and management, natural resource management, policy advocacy and research, micro-credit financing, gender and development, and services development.

KFI is seeking applications from competent candidates willing to be based in Zamboanga City:

1) Technical Assistant

- Assists in the design, composition and production of KFI's official publication and other development communication materials
- Coordinates the printing and or production of development communication materials
- Writes news articles, correspondence and or letter to partner institutions
- Assists in the development of research, monitoring and evaluation tools
- Drafts research output and proposal
- Provide staff support and services to meet the general services requirements in the conduct of their activities of various units/department;
- Responsible for the design and maintenance of institutional website
- Undertakes project monitoring activities like meetings and field visits and prepare monitoring reports which shall identify bottlenecks and recommends ways for improvement of project operations
- Reviews program and project reports and outputs and provides necessary guidance to ensure compliance with project requirements for monitoring and evaluation

Qualifications:

- At least 28 years old and a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Community Development, Business Management or any other related course
- Computer literate (word processing, powerpoint, excel) and internet applications
- Strong administrative and diplomatic skills, and inter-personal relationship skills
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Five years or more of relevant, demonstrated professional experience in project development and management in the field of operations research and monitoring & evaluation
- Can work alone or with a team with minimum supervision; self motivated, has initiative and is resourceful in pursuing task at hand;
- Exercises critical judgment with regard to institutional policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure consistency with the organization's mandate.
- Must be trustworthy, detailed, and organized
- With pleasing personality

2) Gender and Human Resource Development Specialist

- Develops modules and educational materials in the campaign of gender mainstreaming
- Conduct gender awareness raising at the institution and partner community level
- Conducts gender research to determine gender issues of the social enterprise and non-social enterprise projects of KFI
- Assist in the formulation and administration of personnel policies and programs
- Assist in the conduct of job analysis, research and case study
- Relates to training institutions, resource agencies and professional affiliations

Qualifications

- At least 25 years old and a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Community Development, Social Work, Psychology or any other behavioral related course
- Must be proficient in MS word, MS Excel, PowerPoint and internet applications
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in personnel management, training and development, project development, and gender and development
- Possess adequate knowledge on gender and development (GAD) principles and practices, human resource development and management, group process and development
- Able to work with all types of people with high ethical standards
- Must possess excellent interpersonal relationship and negotiation skills
- Must be able to communicate effectively (written and verbal) to all types of people
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details work experience, transcript of records, recent 2x2 ID photo, and references not later than September 30, 2005 to:

The President
Kasanyangan-Mindanao Foundation, Inc. (KFI)
4/F VH Wee Building, Veterans Avenue
7000 Zamboanga City
Tel. #: (062) 992-1740; Fax #: (062) 993-0481
E-mail: netteactub@yahoo.com

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

A newly formed retail trade company is in need of qualified personnel to fill in various positions.

Accountant

- Must be a graduate of BS Accounting with at least 5 years experience in supervisory capacity; strong knowledge in financial planning, budgeting, government reporting and tax admin; not more than 30 years old.
- Mastery and familiarity with Peachtree Accounting software is a definite advantage.
- Will be responsible for daily record keeping; voucher preparation; financial reporting, planning & budgets; monthly/ quarterly BIR, Philhealth, & SSS reporting.

Network Administrator

- Strong customer service focus and with ability to work in a team environment; and willingness to learn new technologies
- Proven ability to follow change control procedures
- At least 3 years experience in desktop support and network administration in a Microsoft Windows NT/2000/XP environment; and in supporting Microsoft servers (NT, 2000, 2003)
- Proven ability to work with vendors.
- Have installed and configured Active Directory under Windows 2000/2003; and able to configure/troubleshoot Cisco routers, firewalls, switches, and VPN concentrators
- Ability to document hardware/software configurations and processes and experienced in the management and deployment of desktop applications (MS Office, anti-virus, etc.)
- Excellent troubleshooting and analytic skills.
- Must be proactive, responsible, self-motivated, and able to work well under pressure

Admin Assistant

- College graduate, conscientious, can adapt to pressure, detail-oriented,
- Computer Literate (Microsoft Office), Strong admin/ planning/ communication skills,
- Shall work closely with executives to meet organization needs. Should manifest confidence and loyalty; and be able to get things done.

Customer Service Representative

- Provide exceptional external and internal customer service via phone and in person.
- Provides direct front desk customer assistance; directs and provides information to customers, and facilitates the resolution of customer complaints and queries. Is able to handle complaints, even when handling unpleasant customers.
- Able to use automated information systems to analyze the customer's situation.

For qualified candidates and can report for work immediately, please email your resumé to hr@level10incorporated.com or send your resume with 2x2 colored picture to:

Chief Financial Officer
Level 10 For More Life Inc.
Unit 2203, Jollbee Plaza Bldg.
Ortigas Center, 1605, Pasig City

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To stay ahead, one must have these three essentials: vision, passion and purpose.

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At ClientLogic, vision, passion and purpose are the key values to help you become someone you want to be.

Find out if you have what it takes to stand out and be part of the big difference. Join us now!

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Performance & Implementation Manager
Senior Operations Manager
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Product Trainer
Coach
Trainer
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Accounting Supervisor
Accountants
Payroll Supervisor
Employment Administrator
Benefits Coordinator
HRIS Administrator
Programmer

Applicants are welcome from Mondays to Fridays

Manila *9:30 am to 11:20 am*
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Business Center, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 860-0000

Baguio *9:00 am to 5:00 pm*
Baguio City Economic Zone, Loakan Road, Baguio City, Philippines 2600
Tel. (074) 446-7410

you can send your resume through: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph

Please indicate your desired position as the subject header of your e-mail

other requirements:
recent 2x2 picture
SSS and TIN numbers

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Needs the following staff:

ENGLISH TUTOR

- Male or Female
- Graduate of AB English or any related course
- Very good communication skills especially in English
- Experience in teaching English Language
- Computer Literate
- Can work with minimum supervision

WEB DESIGNER

- Male or Female
- Preferably graduate of Arts and Design or any related course
- Familiar with Software Development tools such as Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash and other web designs and development tools
- Knows basic hardware troubleshooting, an advantage

Also needs the following additional staff:

CASHIER ACCOUNTANT SECRETARY

Interested applicants may visit or call
3rd Flr. Goodwill Bldg. 393 Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati
899-4437 / 899-7818

visit us at: www.jobmarketonline.com

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TERRITORY ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- M/F, Preferably graduates of IT- related courses
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal & communication skills
- Highly confident & aggressive, results oriented & a consistent quota achiever
- At least 5 years experience in Account Management and Business Development
- Must be creative and resourceful
- Has the drive and desire to receive big commissions monthly

SOLUTIONS ACCOUNT MANAGER

- M/F, Preferably graduates of IT- related courses
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal & communication skills
- 2 yrs. experience in I.T. or business solutions selling
- Highly confident & aggressive, results oriented & a consistent quota achiever
- Must be creative and resourceful; has the drive and desire to receive big commissions monthly
- Has the drive and desire to receive big commissions monthly

We need you!

Applicants may apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long brown envelope: resume with full detailed job description and detailed contact info or e-mail application together with scanned photo to **hrd@mannasoft.com**. Deadline of submission is on or before **September 23, 2005, Friday.** Previous applicants need not apply.

mannasoft technology corporation 2/F Republic Glass Bldg., 196 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

JOB OPENING

Public service program **"Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo"** is urgently in need of a

REPORTER / WRITER

We are looking for qualified applicants who are:

- Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- Preferably Mass Communications graduates
- Good research and investigative work
- Have sympathy for the poor and oppressed

Please submit comprehensive resumé with picture at:

Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo
5th Flr. City State Center Bldg., 709 Shaw Blvd. Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 633-91-30 / 637-39-65

Look for Alin Ferrer

WORLDLINK travel and immigration center inc.
Unit 1004 10th Floor, CITYSTATE CENTRE,
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Provincial Paid Seminar:

October 16, 2005-Better Food Better Service Restaurant
Dagupan City @ 9.00 A.M.-12:00 N.N.
Call or Text Miss Clem @ 0916-7669597

October 22, 2005-New Cherry Blossom Restaurant
Enriquez cor. Rizal Street, Lucena City@9:00-12:00 NN
Call or Text Miss Clem @ 0916-7669597

Provincial FREE Seminar:

October 15, 2005-Balikbayan Hall, Urdaneta City Cultural And Sport Center @ 9.00 A.M.-12.00 N.N.
Urdaneta, Pangasinan
Call or Text Miss Ana @ 0919-4702048

Office FREE Seminar Schedule:
First Batch: 10 A.M.
Second Batch : 2 P.M.

E-mail address: worldlinkimmigration@myway.com

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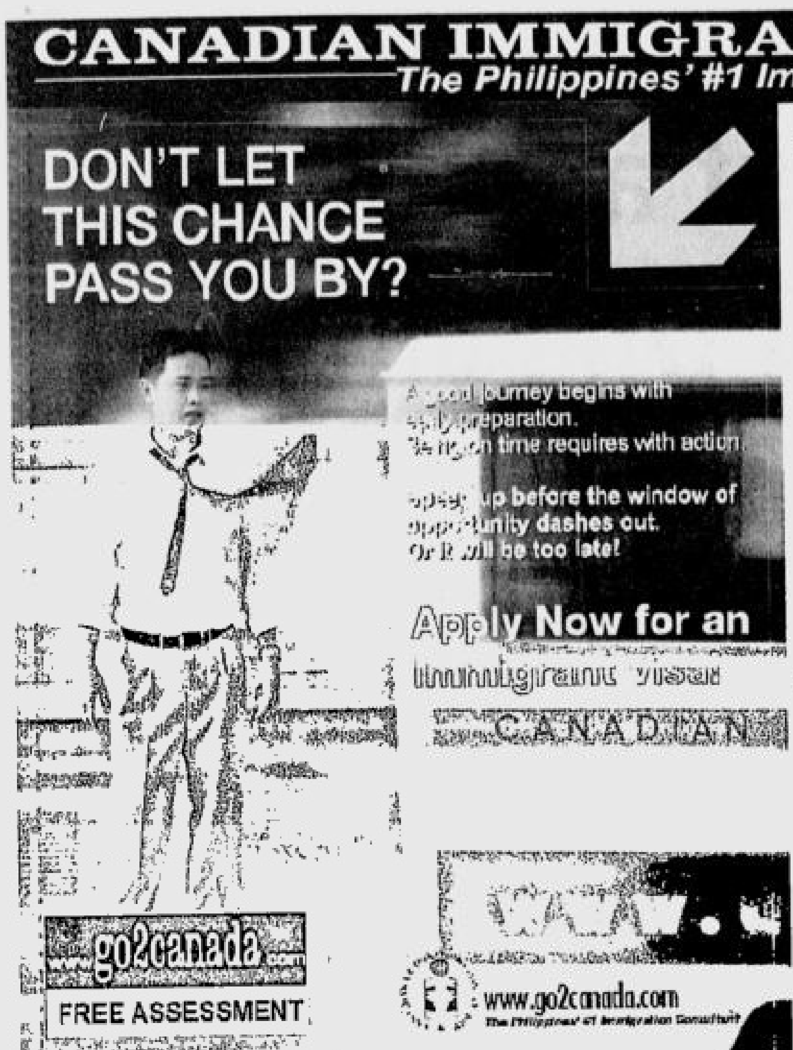
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Business Park Alabang-Zapote Road, Ayala Alabang
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8097679 / 0917 9077761 / 0916 4587079
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516 Quintin Paredes St. Binondo
Phone: 2432078 / 2426557 / 0917-6047720
Email: binondo@go2canada.com

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Gen. Romulo St., Araneta Center, Cubao
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8864934 / 8864334
Email: cubao@go2canada.com

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Suite 34, 2/F Midland Plaza Condominium
M. Adriatico St., Ermita Manila
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Email: malate@go2canada.com

MAKATI CITY
Unit 403 Peninsula Court Paseo de Roxas, Makati
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7617743 / 8793119 / 879 8334 / 0917 9077761
Email: makati@go2canada.com

QUEZON CITY
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[illegible]
Email: westavenue@go2canada.com

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Email: cagayandeoro@go2canada.com

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Cardinal Rosales Ave., Business Park, Cebu City
Phone: (032) 2340111
Email: cebu@go2canada.com

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METRO MANILA OFFICES

- Uniwide Coastal Mall, Parañaque City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Alabang - Wednesdays @ 6PM - See contact details above.
- Baclaran - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Binondo - Mondays to Saturdays - See contact details above.
- Cubao - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- Malate - Mondays to Saturdays @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
- Makati City - Monday to Thursday @ 10AM - 6PM - See contact details above.
- Robinson's Galleria - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM or 5:30PM - See contact details above.
- West Avenue, Quezon City - Daily @ 10AM, 2PM, 5PM - See contact details above

PROVINCIAL SEMINARS

- NAGA CITY - Wed @ 10AM, 2PM & 5PM / Sat @ 10AM & 2PM - See contact details above.
- DAGUPAN CITY - Daily @ 10AM & 2PM - FREE Seminar & Assessment - See contact details above
- September 18 SOLANO, NUEVA VISCAYA @ 2PM - [illegible] Highway Solano [Call [illegible]]
- September 24 LIPA BATANGAS @ 9AM - [illegible] Restaurant, Pres. Laurel Highway [illegible] Lipa City [Call [illegible]]
- September 24 TARLAC CITY @ 9AM - La Maja Rica Hotel & Restaurant, [illegible] McArthur Highway [Call [illegible]]
- September 25 ISABELA @ 2PM - King George Hotel [illegible] Maharlika Highway [illegible] Santiago City [Call [illegible]]
- September 25 URDANETA, PANGASINAN @ 2PM - [illegible] & Restaurant, McArthur Highway, [illegible] [Call [illegible]]
- October 1 OLONGAPO CITY @ 4PM - [illegible] Hotel, 15 Magsaysay Drive, Olongapo City [Call [illegible]]
- October 2 BALANGA, BATAAN @ 10AM - [illegible] Balanga, [illegible] Balanga City [illegible] [Call [illegible]]
- October 2 CALAMBA LAGUNA @ 2PM - [illegible] Resort & Conference Center, National Highway [illegible] [Call [illegible]]
- October 15 SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA @ 9AM - Olongapo Gapan Road, San Fernando City, Pampanga [Call [illegible]]
- October 29 HOTASAN, TARLAC CITY @ 9AM - La Maja Rica Hotel McArthur Hiway, [illegible] Tarlac City [Call [illegible]]

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FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

The *Financial Times*, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, requires additional staff for its Manila accounts team. The ideal candidates should meet the attributes and formal skills enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible. Attractive remuneration package awaits those who will be hired.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records
- At least 3 years work experience in receivables/payables management and bank transactions (local and overseas) for a multinational company
- Adept in using Sun accounting system
- Well-versed in MS Office applications, specifically intermediate Excel
- Excellent oral and written English skills, interpersonal skills and telephone etiquette
- Willing and able to work on variable shift schedule as required
- Responsible, motivated and can work with minimum supervision and as part of a team

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to
The HR and Administration Manager at the address below not later than September 26, 2005:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Visit our website www.ft.com

WANTED

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

- ✔ Female, college graduate, 22-30 yrs old
- ✔ Preferably, previous Call Center Agent
- ✔ Bring Resumé and NBI clearance

Please call for Interview Tel. #: 916-1878 to 79
Cellphone #: 0910-6117194 Amy

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The Global Property Guide

Legaspi Village, Makati, is looking for the following:

- **Writers/Researchers:** Looking for young, eager and inquisitive individuals:
  - ✓ Fresh or recent graduate with a degree from a reputable school essential (Economics, Finance or Political Economy preferred)
  - ✓ Must be oriented towards finance, investment, tax, etc
  - ✓ Must have excellent English-language writing skills
  - ✓ Must be genuinely research-oriented
  - ✓ Must be interested in foreign countries, politics, and cultures
  - ✓ Must be willing to work in a small office with foreign boss
  - ✓ Must be willing to take a 1½ hour written exam, to test these skills

Email Bio-Data **+two samples of any longer written work** (minimum of two pages) + references with current telephone numbers (strictly no application considered without all these) to gpg@eastern.com.ph. For inquiries, contact May on 750 0560

- **Experienced Administrative Assistant/Secretary:**

Must have 2-3 years' office secretary experience, college education, mastery of Word and Microsoft Outlook, excellent English, and help administer office affairs (letter-writing, filing, some bookkeeping, following up appointments, and other related tasks), and help with some research. Send CV to gpg@eastern.com.ph or call 750 0560

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CHAUFFEUR

Driver will operate various vehicles to transport personnel to points throughout the country. Familiarity with Metro Manila streets essential.

QUALIFICATIONS: Must have completed high school, at least three (3) years professional driving experience, preferably with a government or industrial/commercial establishment; have driver's license restriction code 2,3 and 4 (attach a copy of your license) and able to drive both manual and automatic transmission vehicle; be familiar with locations of important offices, streets in Metro Manila and suburbs. Must have an excellent driving record. Must be able to pass full physical including eye and hearing. Must have strong interpersonal and teamwork skills.

COMPENSATION: Competitive salary (including raid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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acer

Acer, one of the top and leading PC vendor in the Philippines is inviting experienced, people-oriented and top caliber professional to fill in the position of:

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

Qualifications:

- At least 5 years experience and with good track record in handling IT products distributors in a managerial capacity
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Post Graduate Diploma / Master's Degree in any field
- Must possess extensive experience in Sales & Marketing aspects of the business
- With strong business acumen, distributorship orientation and entrepreneurial skills
- With exceptional team leadership skills Result and solution-oriented
- With superior interpersonal and communication skills
- Driven to excel and achieve desired results, proactive; works well under pressure; willing to do weekend activities
- Proficient in computer (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint) applications
- Independent and mature with a high degree of initiative

Interested applicants must submit their resumé with recent 2x2 colored ID photo not later than September 24, 2005 at the following addresses:

Acer Philippines, Inc.
Human Resource Department
Unit 3401 34thF PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue, cor. Herrera St., 1226 Makati City
or e-mail: cecille_mauri@acer.com.ph

Purchasing Manager (Underwear or Lingerie)

An American Company is seeking experienced **Purchasing Manager** who can source manufacturers and control quality. Qualified candidate must have at least 5 years experience in the underwear and/or lingerie industry. Must be fluent in both written and spoken English. Please send detailed English resume to:
E-mail:**hrd@unihosiery.com**
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TELECOM SALES ENGINEER

We are a start-up company looking for a competent, self-motivated and hard-working engineer to help us sell repeaters and other **mobile communication equipment** to telecom operators. Prospective candidates must have the following qualifications:

- Male or Female;
- Not more than 35 years old;
- Must be a Registered Electronics & Communications Engineer (R.E.C.E.)
- Minimum 1 year experience in wireless telecommunications either working for similar mobile telecom equipment supplier or telecom related companies;
- With knowledge in the different types and specification of repeaters, boosters, BTS or other similar mobile telecommunication equipment;
- With experience in using AutoCAD or Visio softwares
- With good communication skills;
- Willing to do field work;
- Must know how to drive;

*Interested parties please send detailed resumé via email to **mytwincom@yahoo.com***

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

JR. CIVIL ENGINEER

- Male at least 30 yrs. old
- Must be a licensed Civil Engineer
- 3 to 4 years experience in Building Construction and Land Development
- Computer Literate, AutoCad 2000
- Knowledge in Civil Works, Estimate and Specifications for building Construction

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Male/Female at least 30 yrs. old
- CPA, well versed in General Accounting
- Result Oriented
- 3 to 4 years experience in the same capacity
- Computer literate, Excel and Word
- Good communication skills

SECRETARY

- Female, at least 25 yrs. Old
- Must be a graduate of a four-year course
- Computer literate
- 2 to 3 years experience in the same capacity
- Must have good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may come personally with resumé, school credentials & 2x2 ID picture to:

Room 301B, V. Madrigal Building, 6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
Please look for Mayla

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(Owned and operated by Republic Retailers) is looking for:

STORE FRONTLINER, FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME (SALES STAFF)

Job Summary
Reports to the Store Operations Manager, is responsible for in-store selling, organizing, communicating, knowing and marketing of products through exceptional customer service, while following the Mission and Vision of Republic Retailers.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Job Summary
Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for performance management, recruitment, implementation of HR policies & procedures, administering discipline, and providing information and support to employees' needs and concerns.

Job Requirements
3-5 years implementation and administration of compensation experience
3-5 years designing plans and programs for direct pay, incentive pay, and/or sales compensation experience

I.T. PROGRAMMER/MANAGER

Technical Requirements
Knowledgeable in .NET technologies particularly C#, ADO.NET, and ASP.NET (required).
Knowledge in object-oriented programming and n-tier applications preferred.
Experience in using HTML and JavaScript.
Experienced in relational databases particularly SQL Server 2000 and MS Access. Knowledge about Interbase is a plus.
Preferably knows about inventory and accounting systems.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Job Summary
Working under the President, attends to their needs, schedules, meetings, personal matters, communication, and confidential information, as well as other duties assigned.

STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER/DIRECTOR

Job Summary
Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for directing and controlling of operations of all stores, which affects sales and service. Constructs and recommends plans that will facilitate the company to develop and advance, while following the Mission and Vision of Republic Retailers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY:
Go to www.republicretailers.com OR Get a Recruitment Brochure & Application Form from any of our stores: 2/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, or 1st Level Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Drive corner Estrella St., Makati City, or 2nd Level Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong City.

(Only shortlisted applicants who have filled up an Application Form will be contacted.)

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GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

CHATEAU 1771 SENTRO 1771 PORTICO 1771

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To qualify, successful candidates
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Positions Available Until September 30, 2005

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NURSE III	16	OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-193-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-194-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-195-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-215-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-226-1998	- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - 1 year of relevant experience - 4 hours of relevant training - RA 1080
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST II	15	OSEC-DOHB-MDTK2-90-1998	- Bachelors Degree in Medical Technology or Bachelor of Science in Public Health - 1 year of relevant experience - 4 hours of relevant training - RA 108
MEDICAL SPECIALIST III	23	OSEC-DOHB-MDSP3-142-1998 OSEC-DOHB-MDSP3-152-1998	- Doctor of Medicine - 2 years of relevant experience - 8 hours of relevant training - RA 1080

(Sgd.) BERNARDINO A. VICENTE, MD, FPPA, MHA, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!
FULL-TIME ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of B.S Accountancy
- With good analytical skills
- Knowledge in Quickbooks is an advantage
- Good bookkeeping skills
- Can communicate in both oral and written English

For interested applicants, please email your resume with picture at dondonsa@gmail.com

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DCI

DBP Data Center Inc. (DCI) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). In supporting DBP's role as a major engine of growth for national development for the past 23 years, DCI has evolved into an integrated IT-driven organization committed to delight the customers in both the public and private sectors through cost-effective and quality e-solutions.

PROJECT MANAGERS

Manage the delivery of the technology components of any given project, either as the initiative prime or technology work package lead, which include components that span across multiple technology groups and outside vendors.

- 3 to 5 years project management experience in the IT industry
- Adept in planning, organizing and overseeing IT projects
- Experience in workflow and knowledge management a must
- Excellent negotiation and people skills

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

- Bachelor's degree holder with background / experience in information technology industry
- Knowledgeable in needs assessment, program design, and design implementation
- Exceptional analytical, writing, interpersonal, team and communication skills.
- Strong presentation and facilitation skills
- Strong project management skills

SOLUTIONS ARCHITECTS

Provide independent and objective advice to the organization on how to best use information technology in approaching business challenges.

- At least 3 years experience in IT systems analysis and design
- Knowledgeable in cutting-edge technologies in hardware, application and operating systems
- Excellent in preparing technical documentation and reports
- Proficiency in Rational Unified Process and Business Process Improvement principles an advantage

SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

Perform requirements gathering, analysis and design to come up with IT solutions to improve efficiency and systems of client organizations.

- At least 3 years experience in IT systems analysis and design
- Intermediate to advanced knowledge in the following: J2EE, Java, Db2, WebSphere, XML, PHP, web services, authoring languages and scripting tools
- Experience in deploying web-based financial systems
- Proficiency in Unified Modeling Language an advantage
- Strong analysis, problem-solving and communication skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST

- At least 2 years experience in quality assurance particularly testing and SAD
- Experience in wide variety of testing efforts, techniques and tools
- Experience in Rational Software an advantage

CISCO ENGINEERS

- Graduate of Computer Engineering, ECE (preferably licensed), Computer Science or any IT-related course
- CCDA/CCNP certification preferred
- At least 4 years experience in CISCO 36XX/37XX/72XX, VPN, GRE, Firewall, NAT, Ethernet, TCP/IP, CISCO router/switches configuration, CSU/DSU, SAN, HP OpenView, and Windows 2000/2003

IT SPECIALISTS

Develop, install and implement application systems; perform analysis, planning, development, coding and maintenance of application systems.

- At least 2 years experience in one or more of the following:

.Net Developer:
ASP.Net, VB.Net, C#, MS SQL 2K, Oracle 8i+, HTML, DHTML, CSS, LAMP, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Flash

Java Developer:
Java, JSP, J2EE, JavaBeans, Applets, XML, XSL, WSAD, Oracle 8i+, HTML, DHTML, PHP, CSS, Photoshop, Dreamweaver Flash & Actionscripts, Javascript

Web Designer:
Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDraw, Flash, HTML, CSS, Javascript, graphics design, layout and animation and color theory concepts

Oracle Database Administrator:
ORACLE database administration (versions 8i & 9i), SQL* Plus, PL/SQL, TOAD, and Oracle Enterprise Manager ADABAS and SYBASE RDBMS

- Graduate of Computer Science or related course
- Strong analysis and problem-solving skills
- Experience in e-commerce, portals, online shopping carts, payment gateways, content management, B2B and other web-based applications a definite plus

MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Marketing or IT-related
- Excellent planning, development and implementation of marketing strategies and communications (internal and external)
- Customer-oriented with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be detail-oriented, results-driven and a good team player

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Graduate of a 4-year Business-related course
- At least 2 years experience in sales, preferably in the IT industry
- Highly motivated with the ability to work under minimal supervision
- Strong analysis, presentation, interpersonal and communication skills

ENCODERS / QUALITY CONTROL CLERKS

- At least 6 months to 1 year experience as an Encoder
- Typing speed of at least 40 wpm
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Office
- Willing to work in any shift

We offer competitive compensation package to successful applicants. Please send your resume with ID photo and a photocopy of your transcript of records to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
22nd Floor Pacific Star Building Sen. Gil Puyat corner Makati Avenue, Makati City

or Email to hr@dci.ph
You can also visit our website : www.dci.ph

*** MALE & FEMALE PRODUCTION OPERATORS ***

FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT!!!

QUALIFICATIONS:
- 160 cm ↑/ 75 kg ↓/ 20-30 yrs old for *MALE*
- 153 cm ↑/ 160 cm ↑ an advantage / 60 kg ↓/ 20-35 yrs old for *FEMALE*
- Vocational / College graduate
- Graduate preferably of ME, EE, ECE, CoE, CS & other related courses is an edge
- With AutoCAD experience is also an advantage
- Ex Taiwan are welcome to apply !!!
- With very good eyesight, no contact lens, not color blind

CORETRONIC CORPORATION Reg. # 10032391 (50 slots)
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AU OPTRONICS Reg. # 10017175 (60 slots)
No. 23 Li-Hsin Rd. I, Science-Based Industrial Park, Hsin Chu City, Taiwan ROC

MANILA OFFICE: #1923 San Marcelino St., Malate, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 404-0949

CEBU OFFICE: Townhouse #1, Medalle Court J. Llorente St., Capitol Site, Cebu City / **Tel. No. (032) 255-9950**

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CHINESE COORDINATOR:
- Female, 45 years old below
- College graduate/level
- Must be fluent in *English, Tagalog, Mandarin and Fookien* dialects
- Neat appearance
- English or Chinese computer literate
- Can work under minimum supervision
- High compensation awaits qualified applicants
- Call *KIMY* at 528-1744

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- 20 - 30 years old Female
- Accounting graduate
- Fresh Grad. Are welcome to apply
- Fluent in Mandarin Chinese
- Knowledge of Chinese
- Call 338-2819

PS PRIME STARS INT'L PROMOTION CORP.
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Interested applicants should bring the following:
Passport or DFA Receipt, Birth Certificate, NBI Clearance, 2x2 Picture, School Credentials, 4 ID cards (Old & New preferably with pictures)

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
BY A GARMENT EXPORTER

A. JUNIOR MERCHANDISER
At least one year experience in garment manufacturing (export)
Computer literate

B. PATTERN MAKER
At least two years experience
Possess strong knowledge in children's & ladies wear

C. INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
At least 3 years experience in garments mftg. company
Computer literate
Knowledge in preparation of operations breakdown and line balancing

D. SAMPLE MAKER
At least one year experience in children's wear
Can operate special machines and possess knowledge in quality assurance

Send resumé with 2x2 photo at 431 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City or fax to 643-7720 & 642-0230

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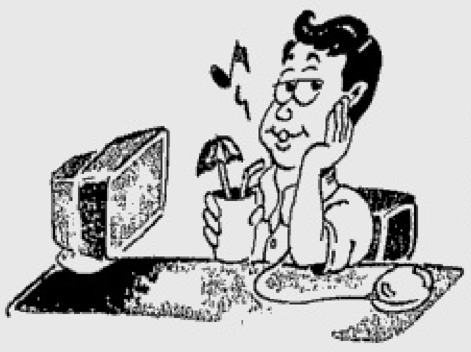
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

When in a slump, challenge yourself

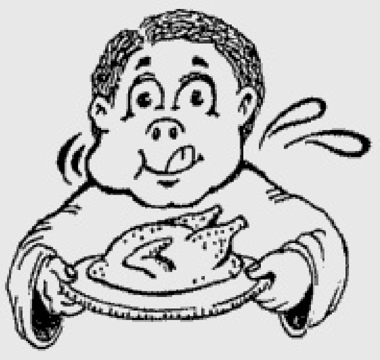
BEST ★ Attitudes

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

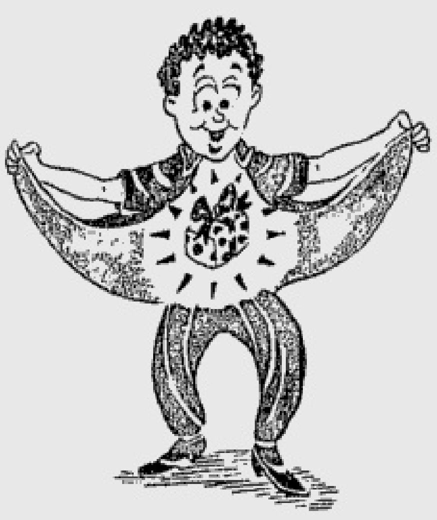
WHILE AN OVERLOAD OF PROBLEMS could be fatal to one at work, not having any might be just as deadly. When nothing worries you at all anymore, it's time to... well, start worrying.



1 Having nothing to worry about could mean everything is so perfect at work that your work could run on auto-pilot. But more often than not, it means you've lost steam or the drive to rise above your present situation. It could also mean work presents no more challenges to you.

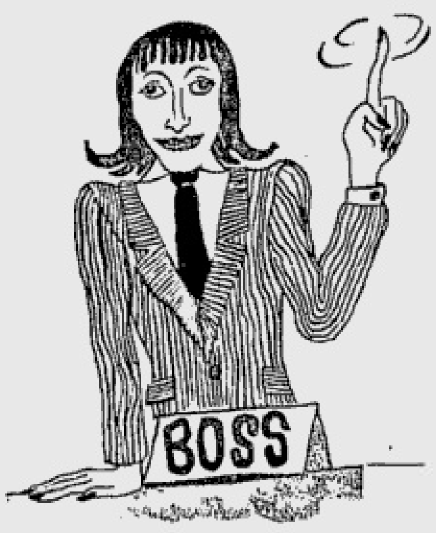


2 For you to move on and move up, you must learn to take the absence of challenges as a challenge in itself. Don't be content living the life of a pig, so to speak—the animal that finds contentment in gorging itself on food until it's taken to the slaughterhouse.

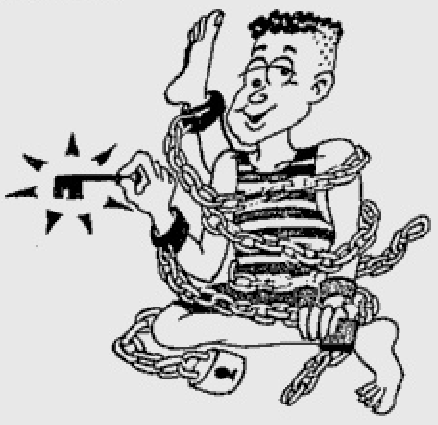


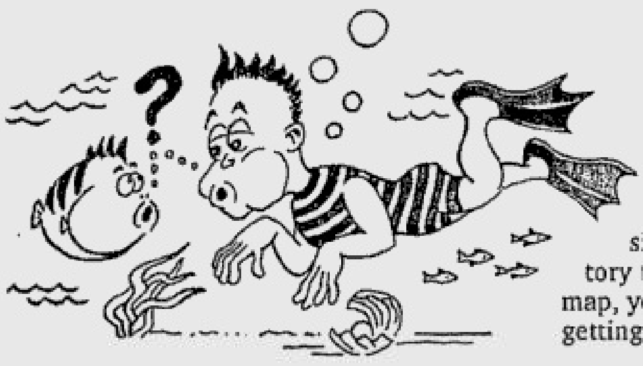
3 No matter what religion you follow, or if you have no religion at all, you'll feel in your bones that you, a human being, are above the animals. You are a child of the Divine, with so many gifts within you waiting to be discovered.

4 Hidden gifts usually get discovered in times of hardship. We know of a woman who never knew she could run a business until her husband died. We also know a spoiled brat who metamorphosed overnight into the family breadwinner when his father was diagnosed to have terminal cancer.



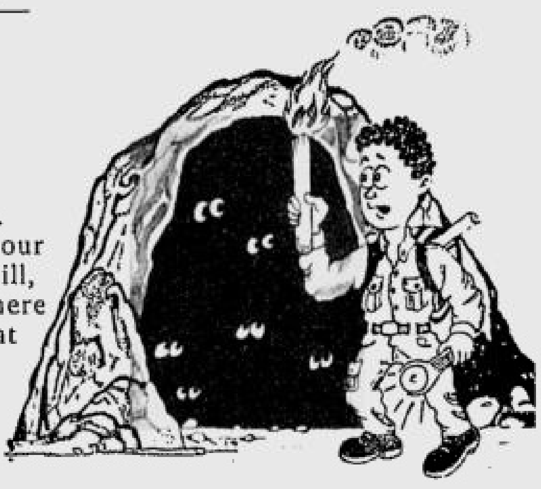
5 Adversity brings out your untapped skills. The marvelous thing about hidden skills is: they can multiply when you aim to compete with yourself. And you become a better performer when challenged to doing work or tasks you had thought you were never capable of.





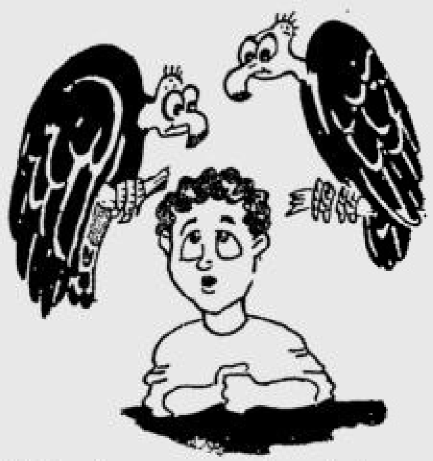
6 Say you've reached a slump in your job or career. You feel there's nowhere else to go. It may sound paradoxical but when you're beginning to feel like you're sinking towards a territory that's nowhere in the map, you can be sure you're getting close to a new victory.

7 But it doesn't just happen. You need to prepare, to plan your moves, to trust yourself, and still, this won't be enough. Somewhere along the way, you'll reach that point where you need to go through the dark.

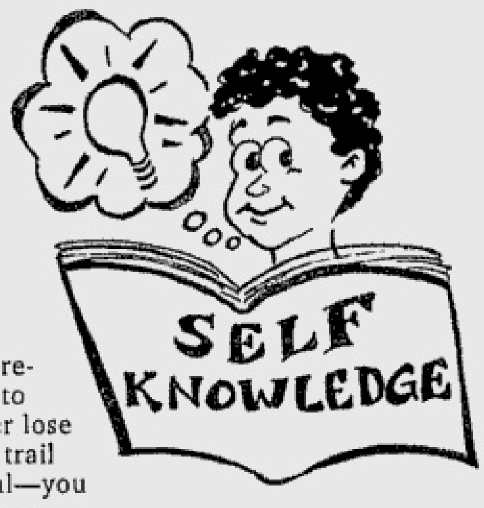


8 Is your leap in the dark a move to another job? A switch in careers? Thinking of giving up everything to work abroad or to start farming in your province? Whatever, with each major decision comes a period of darkness.

9 There is no surefire preparation for this period of trials. Your only "preparation" will be to know that it will come, and when it does, it will not be as you'd want it to be. It will also not be as easy or as swift as you think.



10 Just the same, go through it, with a firm determination that you will give it all that you can. Perhaps circumstances will seem restricting, and resources never adequate. Perhaps, too, coworkers will behave like vultures waiting for your demise, making you want to give up.



11 Self-awareness is a key to victory. Never lose sight of your trail and your goal—you started this new journey because you reached a standstill at work. You would not want to vegetate until retirement age, so you take action. You know it isn't easy and so you brace yourself.

12 Facing your challenges with sincerity of purpose is what will give you the power to overcome. Nothing of worth comes to us without pain, and there is no use praying that the pain go away. But the rewards of hard work make all the suffering worthwhile, because—remember—"Prayer is answered while you are working, not when you are asking."

EXERCISING AT WORK

Work out to work better

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

(Continued from last week)

REGULAR EXERCISE HELPS alleviate stress at work because it helps lower blood pressure and helps relax pent-up muscles that have been constricted and tensed during nerve-wrecking presentations or brain-frying meetings. It releases emotions trapped in the muscle tissue. In addition, working the body will help clear up your head. A few minutes of heart-pumping exercise after a mentally draining activity can clear the mind of negative thoughts and energies. Breathing exercises are recommended instant stress busters.

From your seat, practice deep sighs (in through the nose and out through the mouth) and then deep breathing (in through the nose and out through the nose). Do this exercise slowly and evenly while clearing your head.

Exercise also provides a healthy outlet for built-up tension and frustration. After work, consider martial arts. Not only will it keep stress at bay, it will also build self confidence, discipline and strength. Other alternatives are aerobic exercises like brisk walking, jogging, swimming, dancing or bicycling.

Consider taking up a sport so that exercise does not become a chore but a fun work out that you can look forward to. "Simply to have the will to do something only for yourself that is so rejuvenating increases all the positives in your body and mind," affirms Chris Byrne.

SIT or stand straight up with your shoulders held together towards the center of your back.

PHOTOS BY KELVIN MONTALBO/CONTRIBUTOR

Increasing stamina

Incorporate between 15 to 30 minutes of exercise in your daily schedule to help you get going until the end of the day. If you have time to gossip about your coworkers in the pantry, or if you allot an hour everyday to watch who's the latest rock star or apprentice to get booted out, believe me, you have the time. There is no reason why you can't gossip with your officemates while jogging or work on aerobics exercise while watching your favorite reality TV show.

Physical activity will help your body use more oxygen efficiently so that the heart, lungs and muscles will be stronger and healthier. "The trick is really to remain active throughout the day," adds Byrne.

To increase stamina, leave the car at home and walk to work (assuming the distance is manageable). Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Before or after office, jog or walk briskly for three minutes, then sprint for 10 to 30 seconds. Go back to jogging or walking for two minutes. Then sprint again.

Byrne suggests doing this everyday or at least three to four times a week. Don't forget to warm up or stretch between 5 to 10 minutes before and after. Increase intensity and length according to what your body tells you. "The key to overall health is to really listen to your body," stresses Byrne. According to the fitness instructor, aside from jogging or walking, swimming is one of the best ways to increase stamina.

Office routines

Some people are lucky enough to have a gym in their

EXERCISE/P. 9★

Husband finds it hard to work with wife

(Continued from Sept. 4)

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Josie O. Santamaria

TOGETHERNESS CAN BE A bane. However, working together can at times be stressful. Pressure can lead to frayed nerves, and eventually to quarrels, as you and your spouse experience only too well. You can be both overworked and frustrated with each other. The stress can cause strain in the marriage, especially if no boundaries are set between personal and work life.

When spouses are angry with each other, they go home carrying their emotional baggage with them and vice versa. This emotional baggage can even be brought into the marital bed, affecting their physical and sexual intimacy.

When one spouse loses interest in the business or experiences stress and burnout, or is frustrated and wants to go back to corporate life, like what you are contemplating to do, it is difficult to do so without the other spouse feeling abandoned and even rejected.

Even if the husband takes, or is given by the wife, the top position in the company, which is what is true in your case, the employees know who calls the shots and runs the business. And this can erode the self-esteem of the husband, leading to insecurities and defensiveness. In your case, you said your wife directly or indirectly, makes it known that she has set up the business, and therefore, knows it more than you. This is painful for you, or for anyone for that matter, even if the roles were reversed.

It is important for you to identify what are the real causes of your conflicts with your wife so that you will be able to deal with them, together with your wife.

Causes of husband-wife conflicts

Let me hasten to tell you that you don't have to be husband and wife in business together to have conflicts. Having been a corporate person yourself, you know too well that conflicts arise between and among people working together even if they have a common goal to achieve, and there are sanctions for not being team players.

In my book, "Managing Work and Career," I listed the most common sources of conflicts between couples in business together. These are:

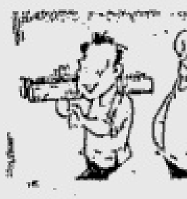
1. There are usually differences in personality, management style, ways of dealing with people, problem-solving and decision-making, and

HUSBAND/P.10★

More articles

Reflections for the Working Soul
p. 9★

Working Wounded
p.10★



Bread for life

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

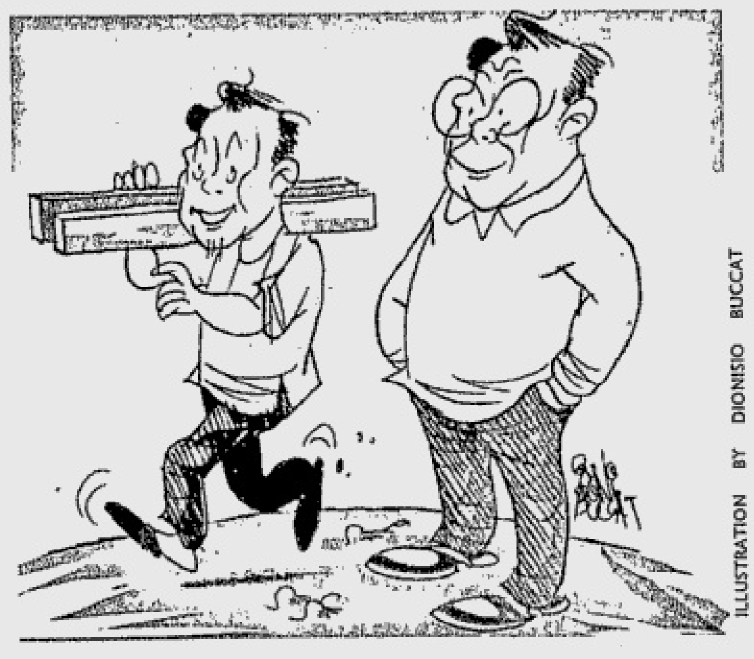
TODAY'S GOSPEL STORY REMINDS ME OF THE UNIVERSAL value of work as a major factor in making life worth living. Particularly when one looks at the bigger picture, work gains a dimension that turns it from being a mere "bread earner" to being bread itself. Sounds Greek to you? Let me elaborate.

Work as bread earner is when work is used to bring you money—of course, everybody needs that—money and the things money can buy. That's how most of us see work. Human appetites being what they are, this view of work can also be a source of conflicts, competition and dissatisfaction in general.

But when you look at the bigger picture—that means pushing your horizons back and beyond the walls of the workplace and your own house—you see the value of your work in the neighborhood, *barangay*, town, city, province, country, the global community. You begin to see aspects of your work outside of the simply material, consumeristic one. You begin to realize that your work, no matter how insignificant or how vital it may have been to your eyes before, has a specific role in the human march towards fulfillment and a better life.

When this "bigger picture" is flashed before your eyes, your heart and your mind respond, rendering a picture of your work that's differently colored from the former one. Your work then stops being an obligation needed for survival; it starts being a loving act. No longer the mere money-maker that it was, work now becomes the very bread that fills and fulfills you, at the same time nourishing the human family. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL



Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard."

High regard for work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT JESUS EXPLAINED WHAT the kingdom of heaven is like by parables, one of which mentioned work-related items such as landowner, laborers, hiring, and daily wage among others. For me, this means among other things that Our Lord regards work, which has a vital part in our human existence, as having also an important and essential bearing in our entry to or in our becoming part of the kingdom of heaven. How we look at our work and how we treat the events and situations in the workplace determine the quality of our life not only in this world but also that in God's kingdom.

I remember *Mang* Tony, the janitor of a school I worked at, who used to report daily for work so neat and clean in his clothes and appearance that many would easily mistake him as one of the teachers. He gained the respect of the school community not only by his excellent work performance but also by his dignified appearance. Many could notice his gentle and joyful disposition, which I think came from a very healthy and high regard of himself and his work.

On the contrary, there was Mr. Cruz, the mathematics professor who was known for his shabby and lousy appearance that many would jokingly call *basurero*, garbage collector of the school. He was a very good math teacher, but he seemed not to get much respect from the community because somehow his relationship with others in the school was affected by his rough and insensitive attitude towards others. An improved appreciation of one's status and work I think, would greatly improve one's work performance, relationship with others and one's life in general. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Work out to work better

From page 8★

office building. Other companies even have their own inhouse fitness centers. If you are not one of these people, you still do not have an excuse. You can still exercise even from behind your desk while seated in your swivel chair. Instead of filling up on caffeine, consider some simple routines during coffee breaks to prevent burn out and keep your blood flowing. It will also perk you up more than a double dose of espresso will.

To relieve lower back stress, while sitting or standing, slowly lean forward while exhaling. Bring your head to your knees and let your hands drop to your feet. Hold this position for five seconds then, while inhaling, unwind and straighten up again. Exhale while stretching your arms upwards and repeat the process five times.

To exercise your upper back and shoulders, raise your hands to shoulder level while keeping your elbows down and pushing your shoulders back. Hold this position for 15 seconds and repeat five times.

Relieving tension

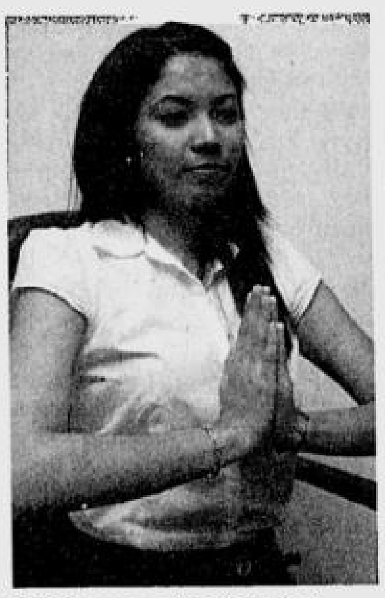
You might also want to try slumping then sitting straight up with your shoulders held together towards the center of your back. Again, hold this position for five seconds before going back to the first position.

Typing away all day can cause some stress to your wrists. To relieve tension and stiffness, put your palms together, chest level, as if in prayer. Slowly push your palms together while lifting the elbows a bit. After five seconds, rotate your hands so that the fingertips point downward. Again, hold this position for five seconds. Repeat this exercise five times.

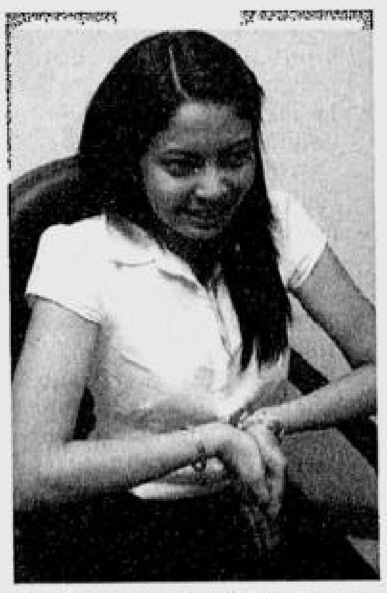
Finally, for neck exercises, slowly turn your head to one side while inhaling. You will feel a slight strain on your neck muscles. Hold this position for five seconds. Then, exhale and return to normal position. Do the same on the other side. Repeat this exercise five times.

There are dozens of routines that you can try. If you want higher impact exercises, your office stairs can be your best friend. You can use the steps for tricep swingbacks, bent-knee pushups, or bent-over leg extensions. If this is too complicated for you, simply walk up and down the stairs for five minutes or more. Increase length regularly and never forget to warm up and cool down. Pick a routine and stick to it. It doesn't guarantee a promotion, but it definitely promises improved productivity.

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net.)



PUSH your palms together while lifting the elbows a bit.



ROTATE your hands so that the fingertips point downward.

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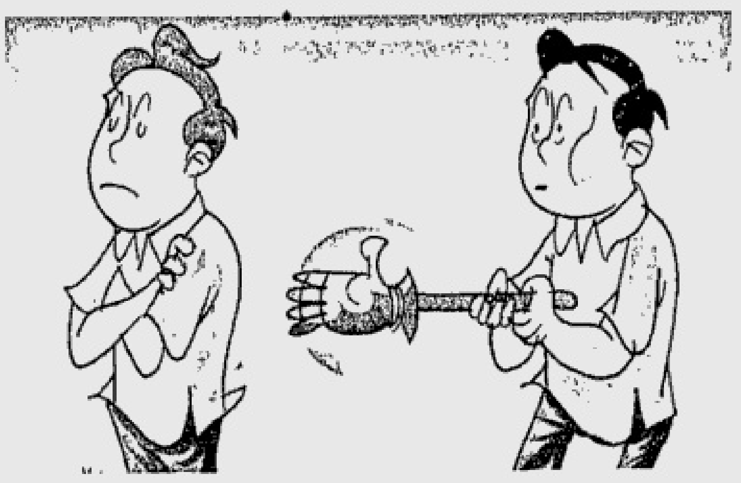
Reader responses on how to deal with a bully

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



DEAR READERS: MY RECENT column on how to handle a bully generated lots of e-mail. Through the years I've received many e-mails from people terrorized by bullies, it was interesting to hear your do's and don'ts concerning bullies, here are a few of them.

"I'm totally convinced that we make our own bullies. I had to conquer my own fear in order to face my bully. A bully goes as far as the meek person will allow. Bullies know how to use perception and drama to make it look like you, the victim, are at fault in creating the situation. The majority of supervisors don't know how to handle bullies either. I'm an MBA in an executive level position. I used tactics for a five-year-old child. No one had done it before in a decade. I also used the 'sandwich' technique: Start with praise, then deliver the criticisms and end with more praise. So far, it seems we have achieved a truce, hopefully a long one. I make an extra effort to treat him with respect. I look for the goading he may try to initiate. I just don't get hooked by that."

"When the boss is the bully, find another job. The primary reason: management defends its own, so any complaint will be either be ignored or relayed back to the manager as retribution."

"One must first analyze whether the place where they work fosters and supports a 'bullying culture.' Believe it or not, the place I formerly worked for prided itself on this type of treatment. They used it on anyone and everyone, but they especially used it on women. I finally got sick and tired of it and began to stick up for myself."

"Abraham Lincoln put it best when he said 'Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?' If being friends with the bully is not an option, try making friends with the bully's best friend. If a person seems unreasonable to you, it is likely they lack a point of reference for your perspective."

"I have a success story. My advice is to stand up to the bully, never be alone with him or her and report the bully to both management and Human Resources. The bully seemed to have studied up on behavior and law to know just how far he could push the envelope. My attorney told me to write a letter to Human Resources indicating that I saw this employee as life threatening. This put accountability on the employer because if I was hurt in any way by this employee, the company would be liable. After I was out of the picture, he selected his next victim. The next victim came to me with her woes, I told her she needed to report it to Human Resources. She never did which was unfortunate, because if she had I am sure the employee would have been terminated or that more corrective action would have been dealt to this employee."

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Have you ever had to deal with a bully at work?

—I haven't but I've seen other people bullied, 7.1 percent

—Never dealt with a bully at work, 7.6 percent

—Once or twice, 36 percent

—Many times, 49.1 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bobworkingwounded.com.)

Husband finds it hard to work ...

From page 8★

ways of dealing with conflicts.

Here are some examples from the couples I studied. Jeanne Menguito is a risk-taker, persistent, doesn't take "no" for an answer and makes tough decisions. Her husband Dom wants to get enough data, carefully analyzes them, weighs consequences of each option and makes careful decisions. He gives his employees enough space to prove themselves.

Bella Ramirez's instincts tell her that a restaurant needs to be renovated, or a new one to be built in a certain location. Her husband Raffie would rein her in and caution her to look at their finances in the long haul before undertaking her projects.

Marissa Romano admits she is a perfectionist and believes in closely supervising their employees in order that standards are met and errors are eliminated. Enteng, on the other hand, is empowering. He allows his staff to make decisions and learn from mistakes.

When thinking through a problem, Malou Darwin wants complete silence and to have dim lights. Husband Oliver wants loud music to stimulate his mind and to keep his creative juice flowing.

These differences must be acknowledged and accepted as unique to the persons, and appreciated by each one. Your wife must appreciate your detail orientation, your caution and prudence. You also must appreciate her optimism, desire for action and results and risk-taking. Together, your strengths, when blended, can be a great asset. Think of what will be the effect if you are like your wife, and she were like you.

2. Roles are not clearly defined, agreed on and communicated to each other. These roles are also not properly cascaded to their employees and to their customers.

3. Even if these roles are clearly defined, one spouse may perform the other's roles or interfere with the other's performance of these roles. One spouse with a know-it-all attitude interferes with the work of the other or changes the latter's decision.

4. A spouse may also expect that the other fit to his or her mold as to how he or she should carry out his or her roles. "Why are you not doing this? Or "Why are you doing it that way" can be irritating to the other spouse.

5. There may also be a lack of clear direction because there is no common vision, goals and objectives. This results in pursuit of different priorities, thereby dissipating time, energies and resources.

6. There may also be differences in values. One spouse focuses on the bottom line while the other on customer satisfaction and service. Or, one is after speed and getting things done fast, while the other is deliberate and focuses on quality.

7. A spirit of competition may also exist. One spouse wants to be right and wants to prove the other wrong. Or one spouse wants to remind the other and their employees that since he or she is the one who started the company, he or she should have the last say.

8. Lack of openness and assertiveness is also a source of conflict. One spouse does not openly share his or her thoughts and feelings. Instead, he or she bottles them up, and expects the other spouse to understand. This could be due to lack of trust, or to insecurity, or to fear that the other spouse will not understand.

9. Pride may reign. One spouse refuses to admit his or her mistakes or sticks to a decision, even if it is obvious that it is a wrong one, or that it will have negative consequence. Or one may be incompetent about an issue but will never admit it. Temper tantrums can often be a façade for incompetence.

10. There is a lack of respect. One spouse puts down the other in front of other people by pointing out or correcting the other's mistakes or criticizing the decision of the other, or insulting or badmouthing the other, to their staff, to clients or to suppliers. Of course this causes embarrassment and humiliation to and therefore, defensiveness on the part of, the other spouse.

(To be continued.)

(Josie O. Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., has a Ph.D. in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, executive coach and mentor. Send feedback to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.)

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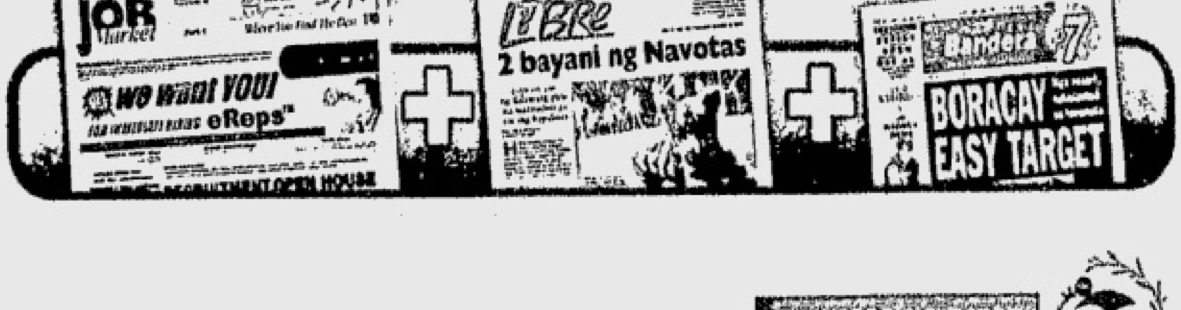

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ClientLogic Philippines, Inc.

Clientlogic, having served customers for over 30 years is considered one of the leading international provider of integrated customer management solutions. Clientlogic has its headquarter in Nashville, Tennessee, and has 55 facilities throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

Still in the phase of expansion, Clientlogic has found its way to the heart of Southeast Asia to a country also known as the third largest English speaking nation in the world, the Philippines. Filipinos, the locals, not only speak the language well but also understand the American Culture too, attributed to the American occupation during the 1900's. The Filipino workforce boasts of a literacy rate of 94.6% of the total population. This is among the highest in the world. Definitely a wise investment for Clientlogic and a good transition and affiliation for the Philippines.

Convergys Corporation

Convergys Corporation, the world's largest call center and cites as one of America's Most Admired Companies by Fortune Magazine for consecutive years, is a multinational organization employing over 60,000 people in 57 customer contact centers and other offices in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

We serve Fortune 500 companies around the world in telecommunications, Internet, cable and broadband services, technology, financial services, and other industries in more than 60 countries. We are the global leader in integrated billing, employee care, and customer care service. Our revenues are in excess of US$2.3 billion.

Convergys is now in the Philippines. In 2003, we began operations with two contact centers. This year, we are committed to aggressively expanding our operations. By the end of 2004, we will have four more centers and available opportunities at all six locations for over 6,000 call center professionals.

Development Bank of the Philippines Data Center, Inc.

DCI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). Supporting its role as a major engine of growth for national development, DCI has, in its more than 22 years of committed service, evolved into an integrated IT-driven company. DCI provides a wide range of Information Technology services for both public and private sectors.

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DCI is in the profitable business of delighting our customers through cost-effective and quality e-solutions to their systems and processes. DCI boasts of a team of committed, dynamic, innovative professionals abreast with the fast changing technology, sought after by major government agencies and leading private entities here and abroad.

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eTelecare Global Solutions

As a broader strategy to offer clients location-independent solutions, two pioneers in the outsourcing business, eTelecare International and Phase 2 Solutions, are now doing business as eTelecare Global Solutions, Inc.

eTelecare International, the world's most honored call center company and the largest based in Asia, was one of the leaders in outsourcing customer service functions to the Philippines. Since 2000, eTelecare has been a top-performing provider of technical support, sales and customer service programs for Fortune 100 clients in the consumer electronics, financial services, consumer products, and travel and leisure sectors. eTelecare's offerings range from standard inbound customer service to expert enterprise-level technical support and NASD Series 6 and Series 7 licensed mutual funds transactions.

Phase 2 Solutions started as a wireless reseller in 1991 before focusing on its call center business in 1997. Phase 2 is the number one service provider on the technical support, customer service, inbound sales and outbound customer retention programs it delivers to leading wireless and landline carriers.

Filinvest Alabang, Inc.

Andrew L. Gotianum founded Filinvest Development Corp. in 1955 as an investment house before it ventured into real estate in 1967. To date, it stands as one of the more reputable and experienced names in the real estate industry.

Few business groups are able to ride the crest of the economic resurgence as Filinvest. It continues to build its strength as a leading property developer even as it aggressively diversifies into strategic high-growth industries such as real estate, banking and finance, telecommunications, among others.

Today, Filinvest has evolved into a full range Property Company. Notably, it is the only Philippine developer with major ownership interests in the country's premier Central Business Districts.

Filinvest Alabang, Inc., is the commercial development arm of FDC in charge of the development of Filinvest Corporate City (FCC), the city of the new century. After its formal launch in 1997, FCC is now a city fast rising, complete with the core components found in a major urban center.

ICT Group

ICT GROUP [Nasdaq: ICTG] is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. We provide a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships.

More than 12,000 ICT GROUP employees at over 40 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Philippines support domestic and multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries.

ICT's diversified suite of CRM solutions, combined with our value-added focus and flexible near-shore and offshore operations, provides clients with optimal scalability and choice.

ICT GROUP's services include sales, customer care and retention, help desk/technical support and data management, value-added services including database marketing and market research, contact center consulting, multilingual and multinational CRM services and eCRM services. In addition to our fully outsourced contact centers, we offer a full suite of CRM technology solutions for use by clients at their own in-house facilities, or on a co-sourced basis in conjunction with ICT GROUP's fully compatible Web-enabled customer contact centers.

NCO Group/RMH Asia Pacific

Founded in 1983, RMH has steadily grown to become the highest quality, most innovative and committed provider of outsourced customer relationship management services. Becoming a publicly traded company on the NASDAQ in 1996, RMH has built a client base of Fortune 500 companies, industry leaders, and multinational firms by developing and fostering unique long-term partnerships. These firms have entrusted RMH with their greatest assets – their customers.

With its new leadership, RMH continues its commitment to quality, technological superiority, value-added services, and unequalled strategic initiative, has made us the leader in the customer contact industry. We offer: (1) Traditional and customized call center services, (2) Mutli-channel access such as e-mail, Web chat, Web callback, voice-over net, voice-over IP, Web collaboration, (3) Integrated knowledge management and contact management tools, (4) Personalization of every customer interaction, (5) More powerful off-the-shelf telephony integration, (6) Genuine customer knowledge through superior business analytics and market intelligence, and (7) Front line employees who can deliver quality results.

Prime Stars International Promotions, Corp.

Prime Stars International Promotions, Corp. was incorporated by a group of experienced Overseas Filipino Workers. It gradually underwent significant developments and expanded its services outside Metro Manila to Cebu City. Prime Stars believes that each day is an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to contribute to society and help themselves and others to become better individuals.

Our Mission: To help lessen the amount of the underemployed Filipinos by giving job opportunities abroad using their ability and skills and their character of being hardworking and industrious.

TeleTech Customer Care Management Philippines, Inc.

For more than 20 years, TeleTech has managed the customer experience for some of the world's best-known companies. Our focus is on managing business processes and customer interactions that drive an optimal consumer experience. This customer-focused strategy is designed to generate specific results – from new business to increased customer wallet share enhanced loyalty and satisfaction – as well as to contribute to the long-term growth and profitability of our clients.

TeleTech's services are designed to provide timely, consistent service and support throughout the entire customer experience. We manage every interaction with a customer as an opportunity to earn their trust and loyalty.

TeleTech offers solutions to a variety of industries including automotive, commercial, communications and media financial services, government, health care, logistics, retail, information technology, and travel. We have leveraged our extensive industry and business process expertise to cultivate partnerships with market leaders and to apply an innovative approach to the implementation of our customer management solutions.

ShoeMart, Inc.

On October 1958, Henry Sy, Sr. opened the first Shoemart Store, as SM as it was then called, along Rizal Avenue in downtown Manila. Mr. Sy, who is considered the visionary of Philippine retail because of his innovation in the industry, conceptualized a chain of shoe stores is characterized by a distinct merchandising lay-out never before attempted in the country. The company expanded its shoe store chain in the 1960's. It was one of the pioneers in the new urban centers when it opened bigger shoe outlets in the Makati Commercial Center in 1963, and in Cubao in 1967.

In the 1970's, Shoemart marked its shift from a shoe to a fuller department store – SM Manila in Echague in 1972 and SM Makati in 1975. The shift marked a change in corporate identity. Shoemart, also known as SM Shoemart or simply SM, a name that has become synonymous with one-stop shopping excitement.

SM positioned itself for growth in the 1980's, diversifying into the supermarket and appliance store business. Late 1985 marked the opening of a shopping mall the SM City.

SM Emerged as a key player in the shopping center industry, giving rise to the malling phenomenon in the Philippines. In 1994, the SM Group established Prime Holdings a publicity listed company that owns and operates world class supermalls.

Today, SM is a dynamic group of companies with core business in the retail merchandising and shopping center industries. Its retail component included the SM Department Store chain, which became part of the live of many Filipinos.

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The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young people in public sector who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines and people in private sector who are expected to contribute to the development of the Philippines market economy.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree only (1.5-2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
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   -Public Administration (10 persons)
   -Economics (8 persons)
   -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
   2-2. *(for public and private sectors)*
   -Business Administration (2 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Qualification Requirements:

1) Nationality: Filipino
2) Age: Below 40 years old as of April 1, 2006. (Those who were born on/after April 2, 1966)
3) Academic background: Applicants should have bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields of study, except for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field that requires bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent is required.
4) Working experience At least 2 years of working experience at the time of nomination and presently employed
5) English language proficiency level IELTS 6.0 / TOEFL 550 (CBT 213) or above is required
6) Military personnel are not eligible to apply
7) Currently or in the past, those who have been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree are not eligible to apply.
8) Applicants should be physically and mentally fit to complete the course within its duration
9) Successful candidates shall attend full-time preparatory Japanese language training in Manila for 2 months from April 2006

Application

-Applicants must complete Application Documents.
-Application Documents are distributed at
  -JICE JDS Project Office, or
  -can be downloaded at http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Selection Procedures

-The First Selection
Submitted application forms will be examined by Japanese University Professors in Japan.

-SCS Interview
Successful candidates of the first selection process should undergo SCS Interview.

-The Second Selection
-Applicants will sit for English proficiency test in early January 2006.
-Applicants will be required to sit for basic mathematics test at this stage.

-The Third Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Technical Interview by Japanese University Professors in early February 2006.

-The Fourth Selection
-Applicants will undergo the Comprehensive Interview in late February 2006
-Applicants will be required to undergo a medical examination at a designated hospital before this stage.

Deadline for Application

No later than 16:30hrs on October 21, 2005
Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be accepted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, please contact:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines
(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
*Unit 2-F1, Island Plaza Salcedo, L.P. Leviste Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
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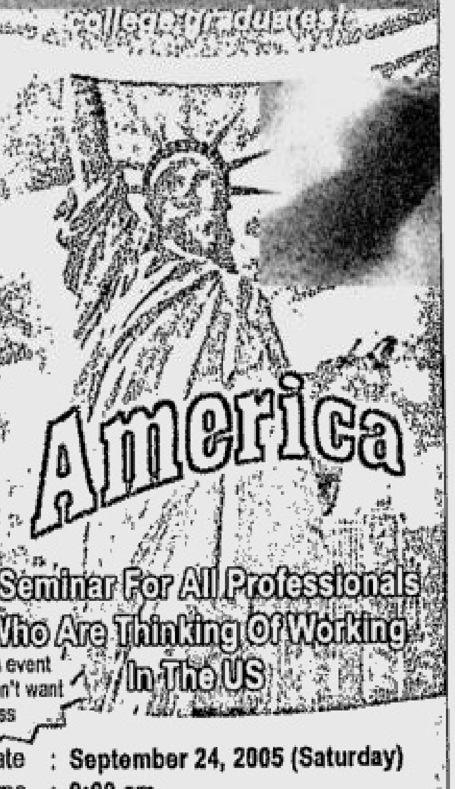

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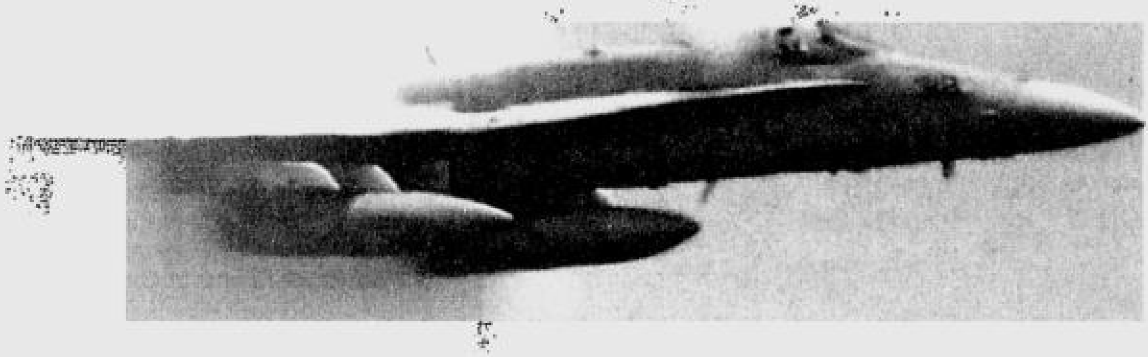

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(Code: CCA/I or CCA/L)

- Male/Female; Finished at least 2nd year college level or any 2-year course
- Conversant in English, Mandarin or Spanish
- Preferably with prior sales experience (i.e. direct-selling, telemarketing, etc.)
- With excellent verbal & written communication skills
- With prospecting, presentation and telephone skills
- With clear, distinct and professional-speaking voice
- With strong team building skills and the proficiency to influence change in a fast-paced environment
- Comfortable conversing with foreigners and with all levels of people
- Must have strong orientation in Customer Service
- Willing to work on shifts

TEAM LEADERS
(Code: T/L)

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICERS
(Code: QA/O)

- Male/Female; Graduate of any 4-year course
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- Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel and OpenOffice
- Must have excellent verbal, written communication and active listening skills
- Has good planning and decision-making skills
- Must be detail-oriented, analytical and organized
- Adept in numbers
- Can work long hours

Other Positions Available

For Operations : Operations Manager/Supervisor, Account Manager, Verifier and Data Encoder
For HR : Recruitment Officer, Employee Communications & Relations Officer, Training Officer, Administrative Officer, Security Officer and Frontdesk Officer
For IT : Applications Developer, Network Engineer and Desktop Support

Applicants may submit their Curriculum Vitae with recent 1X1 Photo, SSS Number & TIN to:
The Human Resources Department, 6th Floor Jocfer Building
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
recruitingteam@bakcommunications.com
Tel. No. 455-7840

PCCO PHILIPPINES-CANADA COOPERATION OFFICE
The program support unit of CIDA in the Philippines

Coffey Coffey Philippines, Inc.

LOCAL CONSULTANTS IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT

The **Philippines-Canada Cooperation Office (PCCO)**, a CIDA project managed and implemented by Coffey Philippines, Inc. (CPI), is inviting consulting professionals specializing in, but not limited to, the following:

Accounting
Agrarian Reform
Agriculture / Agribusiness
Anti-Corruption
Archival System
Audit and Financial Management
Barangay Governance / Justice System
Capacity Assessment / Development
Coastal Resource Management
Community Development / Organizing
Comprehensive Land Use Planning
Conference Management
Conflict Resolution
Contracting/Contract Administration
Cooperative Specialist
Database Management
Decentralization
Ecology
Economic Zone Development & Mgt.
Economics / Economic Analysis
Education (Distance/Formal/Vocational)
Energy
Environment / Envi. Impact Assessment
Financial Analysis / Manangement
Gender and Development
General Office Administration
Housing
Human Resource Development
Info System Development / Mgt.
Information Technology (IT)
Judicial Reform
Law / Legal Research
LGU Financing & Revenue Gen. & Mgt
LGU Peacebuilding Mechanism
Local Economic Development
Local Governance
Local Legislation & Policy Formulation
Management Information System (MIS)
Market Analysis / Research
Microenterprise Development
Microfinance
Monitoring and Evaluation
Natural Resource Management
Institutional / Organizational Dev't.
Peace and Dev't. / Peace Education
Policy Research
Poverty Assessment
Private Sector Development (PSD)
Prog./Proj. Appraisal, Dev't. and Mgt.
Program Management Review
Program / Project Finance & Admin.
Remote Sensing, GIS,GPS
Result Based Management (RBM)
Rural Credit / Rural Development
SME Development / Financing
Solid Waste Management
Statistician / Survey Specialist
Translator (French/Others)
Training and Capacity Building
Urban and Regional Planning
Water and Sanitation
Watershed Management
Women and Children Services
Writer (Creative / Technical)

to register and be part of the PCCO pool of local consultants. Registration and submission of CVs (in MS Word format) to the PCCO Database of Consultants **must be done online thru www.pcco.org.ph**.

The Philippines-Canada Cooperation Office (PCCO) is the program support unit of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the Philippines. As such, the PCCO maintains in its website a Database of Consultants which is accessible online to CIDA and CIDA projects in the Philippines.

For queries and problems related to this online registration, please email pcco@pcco.org.ph.

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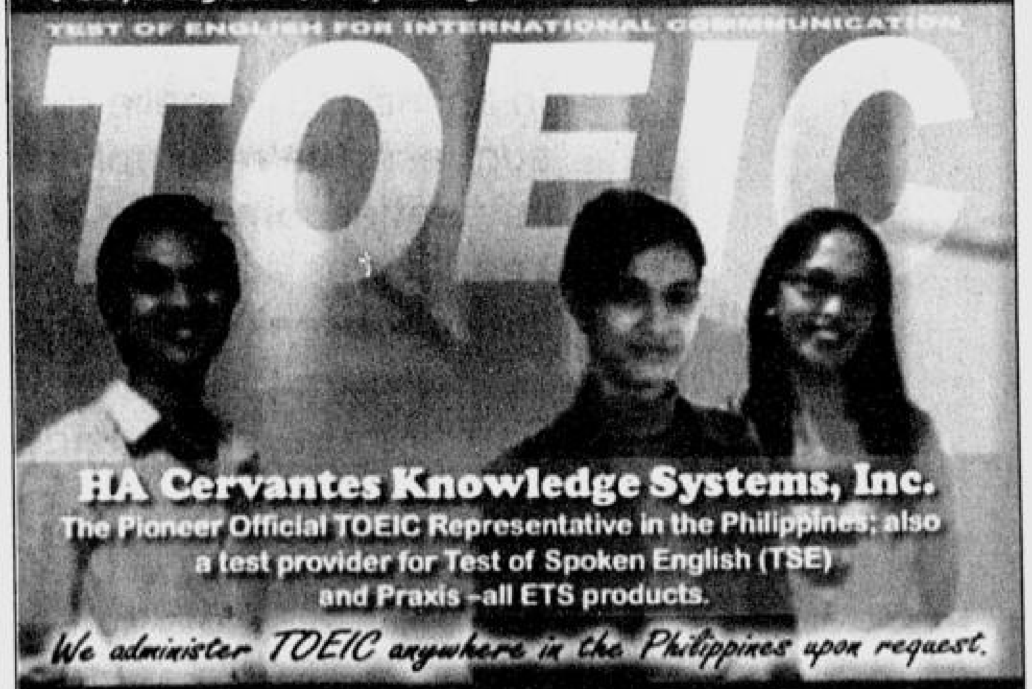
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PASAY BRANCH: 3rd flr. THA Bldg., 2116 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Corner Taft Avenue, Pasay City Tel Nos. 832-9112 832-9116

LOS BANOS BRANCH: Batong Malake, National Highway, Los Baños Laguna (near Olivarez Plaza) Tel No. (049) 827-2818

LA UNION BRANCH: 3rd flr. Florentino Bldg. General Luna st. City of San Fernando La Union Tel No. (072) 888-3377

CEBU BRANCH: 3rd flr. Rm. 301 Manros Plaza, General Maxilom Ave. Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 412-6556

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☐ At least 2nd year College
☐ Presentable in appearance

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☐ Organize, systematic, flexible

GADGETS PROMOTION MODEL

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☐ Below 25 years old
☐ Good communication skills
☐ Enthusiastic and a good character
☐ Should have at least 1 yr. Experience in modeling or promotions

Apply personally (10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday) at 4th Floor, Cyberzone SM Megamall Bldg. B, Mandaluyong City Tel. No. 6332011/6373163. Look for Louella Balbiran.

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EMPLOYER WILL BE IN TOWN TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW STARTING ON MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER, 2005, AT 09:00 AM

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College graduate of any 4-year course; With good communication skills both written and oral; Computer literate with knowledge of MS Word and Excel.

Submit resumé with 2" x 2" photo at
RMDA Architects
2865 Finlandia Street, Makati City
T/ 8449923 8442701
Email: rmdaarch@pldtdsl.net

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(Financial, Technical, Sales, Inbound, Multi-lingual Accounts)

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- Excellent communication skills
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SECURITY SUPERVISOR
SENIOR WORKFORCE ANALYST
FRENCH AND SPANISH SPEAKING REPS
DATA ENTRY OPERATORS

Submit your RESUMÉ ASAP to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com

Or VISIT our RECRUITMENT CENTER
14TH Floor UnionBank Tower,
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For more information please call us at 8570305/8570308 to 10

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Far Eastern University
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Email: ssabaupan@feu.edu.ph
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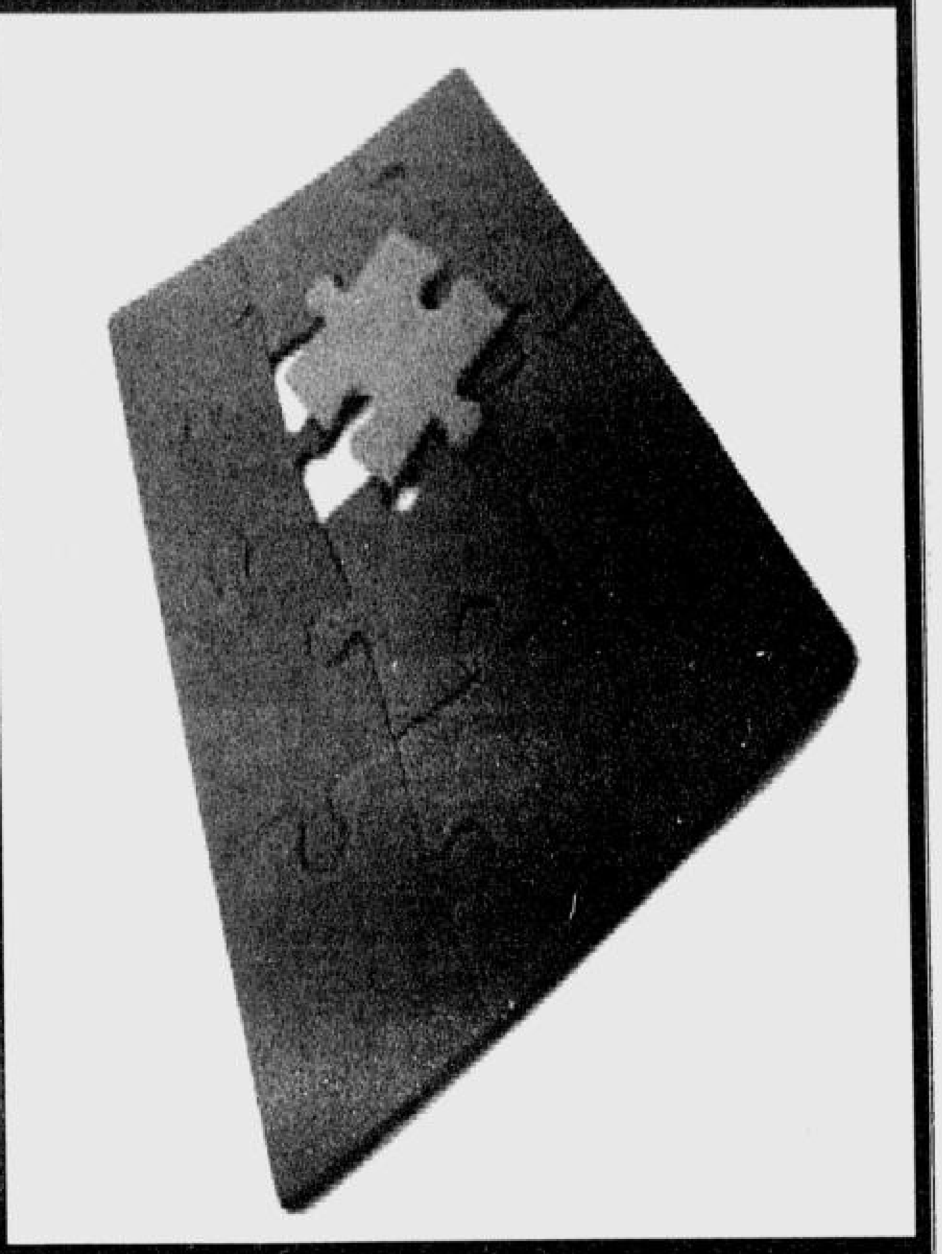

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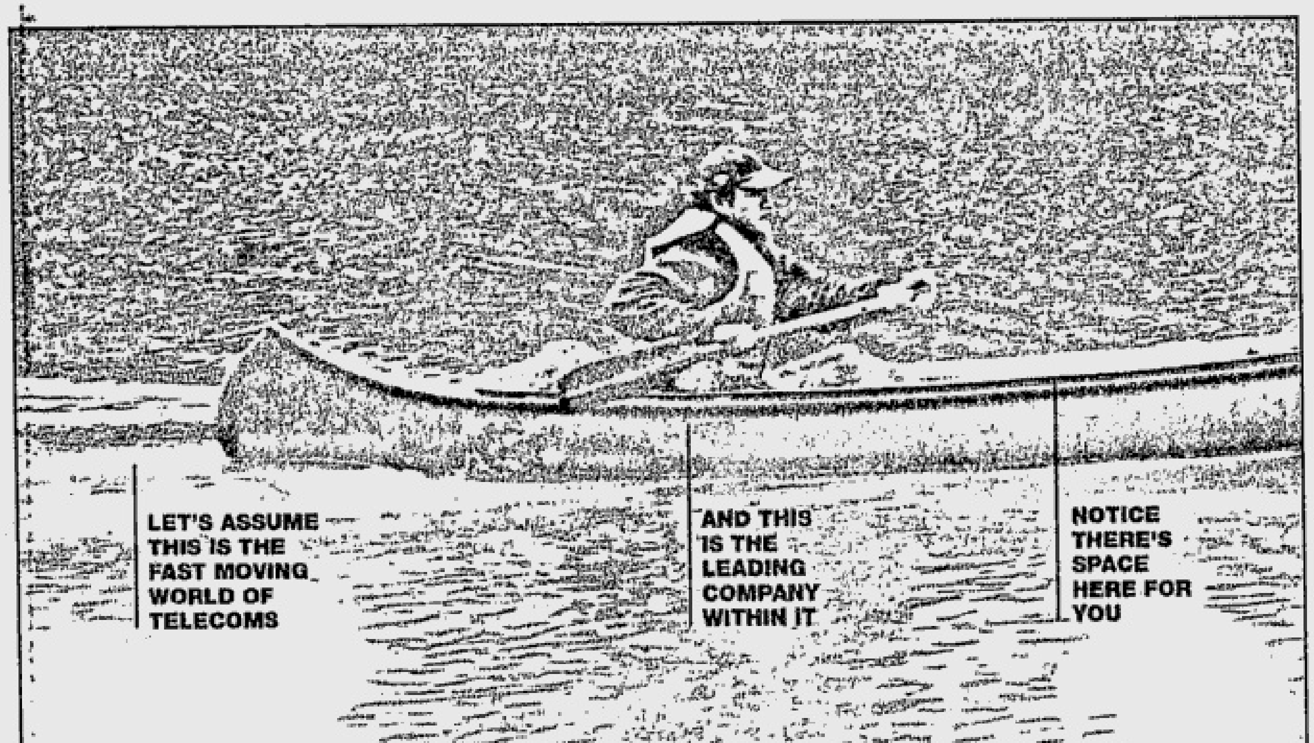
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AND THIS IS THE LEADING COMPANY WITHIN IT
NOTICE THERE'S SPACE HERE FOR YOU

Manpower and brainpower. You need both to run a business successfully. So let's talk. More than half of Ericsson's employees worldwide are university graduates and over a quarter of our research staff have technology PhD's. The best brains and the leading telecoms company? Interesting combination. Think where it will take you.

LOCAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT MANAGER The Local Customer Support Manager shall manage the resources needed to provide Network Support according to agreed standards, budget, contracts, processes and procedures. He/She shall report directly to the Head of Services for line related issues and to the Market Unit Ericsson Local Support Manager for functional issues. The main tasks are the following: ensures the local customer interface functions smoothly, ensures management escalation in case of emergencies; responsible for the conduct of Performance discussion for hosted resources; recommends to the Market Unit Ericsson Local Support Manager hiring of resources based on sales and manpower forecast by Accounts and Competence Area groups; prepares, reviews and monitors budget; ensures the agreed processes and procedures relevant to the Market Unit Ericsson Support operations and management are followed, managed, measured and improved. Candidate must have a degree in Business and/or Telecommunications; at least 6 years of experience from the Technical Support area within the Telecom or similar industry and at least 2 years in managerial or supervisory position. Able to communicate and lead others. Able to understand the whole workflow within the business area. Has established a network within Ericsson. Effective decision maker and well organized. A good motivator.

PROJECT MANAGER The Project Office organization under the Project Management Office, provides the resources to run projects in Ericsson Philippines. The main purpose of the project manager is to develop a project specification and establish an organization required for project. The Project Manager heads and manages a customer project, in accordance with agreed budget, time schedules, scope and specifications, exceeding customer expectations. Candidate must have at least 5 years experience in the field of telecommunications integration projects. Knowledgeable in the project management models, such as, PROPS-C and PM4U. Good managerial and project management skills.

Please forward your resume to
human.resources.enp@ericsson.com
or Human Resources & Organization
7th Floor Octagon Bldg., San Maguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, P.O. Box 13644, Pasig City 1600
Before 26 September 2005

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Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme needs a

Programme Officer – Organizational Disaster Preparedness

In line with Oxfam Great Britain's strategic plans and policy guidelines, Oxfam wishes to build its organizational capacity to continue to respond to disasters both natural and complex in the Philippines. Thus, the post will form a focal point to the building of these capacities.

Key Responsibilities

Background Research
- Consolidate existing risk analysis and contingencies research and planning.
- Analysis of previous response capabilities of Oxfam and other stakeholders.

Organizational Preparedness
- Explore innovative groups and initiatives operating in disaster response.
- Review with the team appropriateness of operational systems, procedures and actual practice in disaster response.
- Update internal and external emergency response roster and emergency response manual
- Identify training opportunities and assist in the selection of training systems in emergency response using Oxfam's personnel development data and plans
- Provide the country team updateable summaries of contingency plans and vulnerability assessments at predefined milestones.
- Assist the country team in analysing Oxfam's value added capabilities in emergency response
- Develop further strategic partnerships in the sectors of water, sanitation, public health and shelter specific to response preparedness and appropriate solutions.

Response Preparedness
- Review response modalities to medium and large scale disasters;
- Assist in further defining sector and generic response kits in line with other key stakeholders.
- Work with Logistics Preparedness Officer and Humanitarian Programme Coordinator (HPC) to ensure institutionalisation of supply contracts for emergency preparedness and response

Networking Response
- Provide an overview of regional, country and provincial level response networks
- Liaise with disaster response agencies, government institutions, donor agencies and other bodies as appropriate in the pursuit of programme aims.
- Link into early warning systems for both complex and natural disasters.
- Further develop networks with HPC and Country Management Team (CMT) including, international response networks

Response
- Play a key role in responding to medium sized emergencies within the Oxfam Team
- Support teams during assessments and scale up response. Provide information on stakeholders and members

Core Competencies:
- Mature understanding of relief and development work in the Philippines, especially in disaster management
- Conceptual, critical and analytical thinking. Must be adaptable and flexible
- Initiative, with drive to achieve results and has the ability to work effectively with others

Essential Specifications
- At least five years work experience with INGO's or international response oriented organizations
- Experience of Humanitarian response, including field experience
- Knowledge and understanding of the Philippine NGO environment, its dynamics and operations.
- Knowledge of the disaster situation in the Philippines, including social, economic and political issues.
- Knowledge and understanding of disaster management systems and concepts.
- Understanding of gender issues in development and commitment to promoting gender equality
- Knowledge and understanding of the mechanics and issues in emergency programme implementation
- Ability to work on his/her own initiative to build on and develop the job.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- Good oral and written communications skills and an ability to relate to people from all backgrounds
- Willingness to travel frequently, sometimes to remote areas for extended periods, to visit projects and partners
- Fluency in written and spoken English

Desirable Specifications
- Broad understanding of development issues at the national and international level
- Experience in strategic and programme planning; skills and experience in monitoring, evaluation and appraisal; experience in community based disaster response and management
- Experience of work on gender issues, including e.g. planning, training, research and organizing a highly desirable; specific gender related work in DM
- Experience in Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) methods and ability to promote participatory processes

The post is for a six (6) months assignment. Interested applicants should submit their application letter with complete CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street, Teacher's Village
FAX: 927-0499 email: otadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application : September 30, 2005
Interview dates : to be advised

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED FOR INTERVIEW

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005
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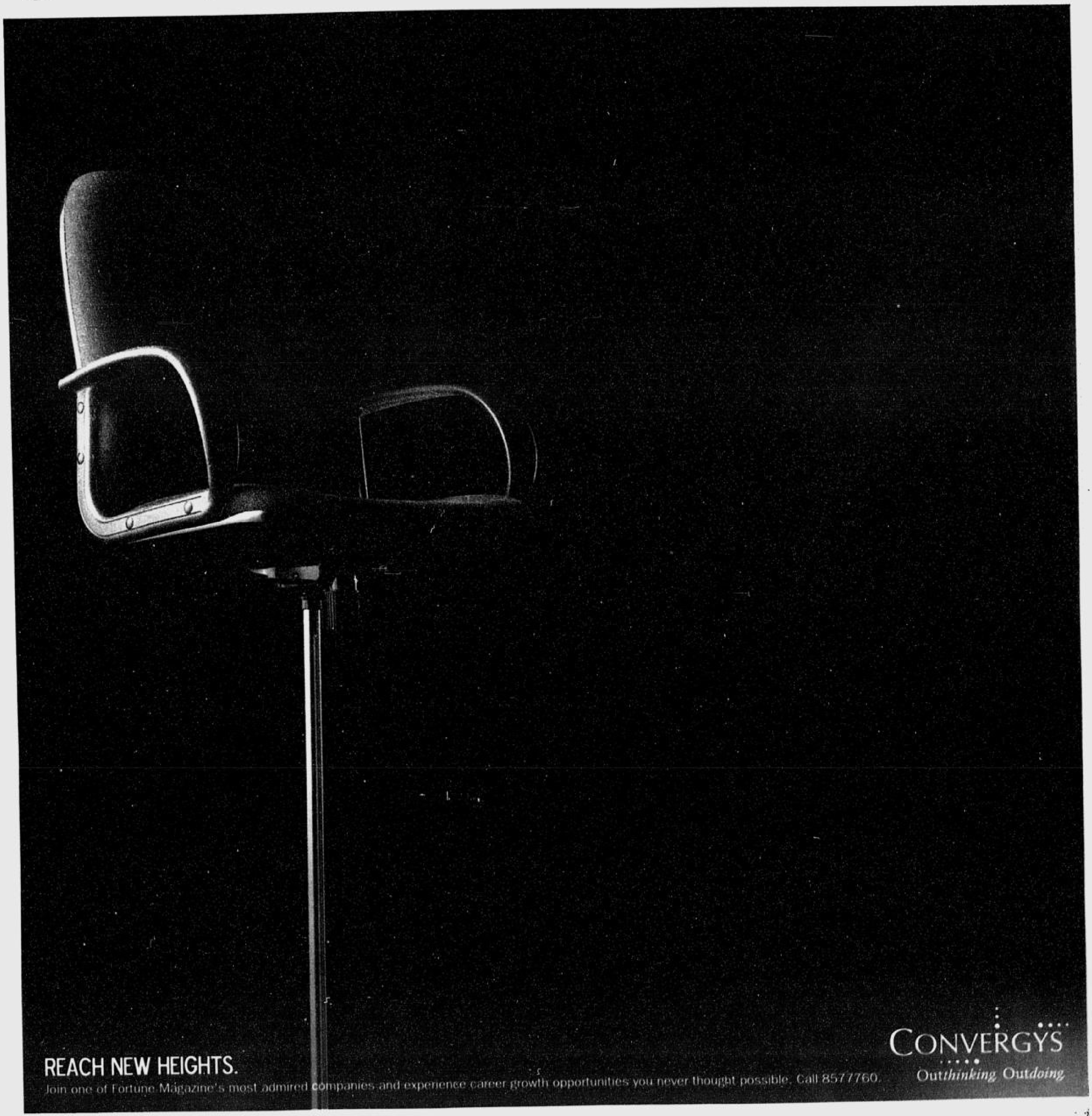
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INBOUND TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Site: Ortigas, Commonwealth, Makati

Educational Background
- Bachelor's degree preferably in Computer Science

Canditate Profile
- Proficient in basic computer skills
- Open to working odd hours
- Courteous, attentive and able to develop rapport
- Dependable and has good work ethic
- Pays attention to detail
- Is fluent in English and highly conversational
- Has technical knowledge in DSL, Internet and networking

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Site: Ortigas, Commonwealth, Alabang, Makati, Cebu

Educational Background
- Bachelor's degree from any field
- Minimum requirement: Completion of at least 2 years of college studies

Candidate Profile
- Proficient in basic computer skills
- Open to working odd hours
- Courteous, attentive and able to develop rapport
- Dependable and has good work ethic
- Pays attention to detail
- Is fluent in English and highly conversational
- Problem solver

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Site: Makati

Educational Background
- Bachelor's degree preferred
- Minimum requirement: Completion of at least 2 years of college studies

Candidate Profile
- Proficient in basic computer skills
- Open to working odd hours
- Is fluent in English and highly conversational
- Should be energetic, lively and enthusiastic, while providing professional customer service
- Applicants with at least six (6) months of call center experience (preferably outbound) are encouraged to apply

TEAM LEADERS

- At least 6 months previous experience as a Supervisor/Team Leader
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Call center/customer service background is preferred
- Strong ability to maximize performance
- Willing to be assigned in any location

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinson's Equitable Tower
#4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center
Pasig City
(02)857-7588

Commonwealth Office
Diliman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue,Diliman
Quezon City
(02)931-3710

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

Makati Office
8th Floor, Tower 2, The Enterprise Tower
Ayala Avenue
Makati City
(02)857-7788

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas Street, Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills
Cebu City
(032)416-5810

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Assistant Supervisors (10)

- Male/Female
- Not over 35 years old
- Must have at least one (1) year supervisory experience preferably from a manufacturing firm
- Graduates of Engineering or any Business-related courses

Team Leaders (18)

- Male/Female
- Not over 30 years old
- Graduates of Engineering or any Business-related courses
- Experience in similar positions preferred
- Fresh graduates with excellent academic background and leadership potential may apply

Purchasing Officer

- Male/Female
- Not over 35 years old
- Must have at least one (1) year supervisory experience in Purchasing
- Graduates of Engineering or any Business-related courses

HR Assistants

- Female; 20-26 years old
- Graduates of Psychology
- Computer proficient
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Company Nurses (2)

- Male/Female
- Not over 30 years old
- Registered Nurse

Office Staff

- Female; 20-26 years old
- Graduates of 4-year courses preferably Computer Science, Business Administration or Engineering
- Computer proficient
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Interested applicants are requested to send immediately comprehensive resume with recent photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
Blk 25 A & B Ph IV Expansion, Cavite Economic Zone,
Rosario, Cavite
E-Mail: wk-rec@hrd-s.com
Fax: (02) 8578531; Tel. No: (046) 4371942, (02) 8578530

Please indicate the position applied as Subject for E-mail.
We will respond to qualified applicants only. Previous applicants not apply.

OTHER VACANT POSITIONS

FACTORY WORKERS
WELDERS
MAINTENANCE TEAM MEMBERS

Male; 18-28 y/o; At least High School Graduate;
At least 5'2" in height

Applicants for the above 3 positions must apply personally at Wu Kong (S) Pte. Ltd.
8:00 AM & 12:00 NN, Mondays - Saturdays
Bring Bio-Data with photo and Latest SSS Employment History

Be part of a crack team doing cutting-edge web applications. **Dig.It.All Solutions**, a small upbeat company, is in need of the following:

Web Designer (Job Code: WBD)
- Creative, with a good eye for visual design
- Deep knowledge of HTML/XHTML and CSS, and web graphics and graphic tools
- Knowledge of JavaScript and PHP is a plus

Web Programmer (Job Code: PRG)
- Up to one year experience doing programming in a web environment, particularly in PHP, HTML/XHTML, Javascript and CSS
- Loves to solve puzzles and problems
- Training in computer science or related courses or equivalent experience
- Experience with ASP, Java, XML and databases is a plus

Asst. Project Manager (Job Code: APM)
- Excellent organizing and leadership skills
- Can write good technical documentation, reports, proposals and presentations
- Believes in continuous improvement and learning
- Understands the internet and web
- Programming experience and knowledge of PMBOK/AGILE techniques are pluses

The ideal candidates will also possess the ability to think both logically and creatively. If accepted, you will work with a young team tackling both mundane and extraordinary challenges. Email resumes with the correct Job Code in the subject line to:

we.want.in@gmail.com

Send hardcopies with the correct Job Code on the envelope to: We Want In, PO Box 100 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor SM Megamall, Bldg B., Mandaluyong City.

URGENTLY NEEDED!

Production Manager
(college graduate)

Senior Production Controller
(college graduate)

Maintenance
(Male – high school graduate)

Sewing Line Leader
(high school graduate)

QUALIFICATIONS:
pleasing personality,
can work under pressure, hard working
w/ experience, preferably female

Please Apply personally at:

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Bo. Dolores, Taytay, Rizal
Tel. No. 631-60-57

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> ADMIN/FINANCE OFFICER
The position is open for those who have background in financial and administrative matters. Responsibilities include: overseeing basic accountancy, monitoring staff budgets and personnel management and enhancement. Since the position includes monetary figures, work experience is required. We don't want them to be disfigured do we?

> ART DIRECTOR
If you're an experienced Graphic Artist, if you think now is the time for you to take your career to greater heights, then you're the one that we're looking for. To boot, you just have to be a Team Player, someone who can completely and independently handle assigned accounts and project and capable of real-time creative output.

> ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE / OFFICER
If you can do account servicing or can perform marketing related work, this job is for you. More than just being an agency-client liaison, you've got to be obsessed with meeting and beating deadlines, aggressive and result driven.

> TECHNICAL COPYWRITER / PROOFREADER
If you can find an error in this sentence, then you're the man for this job. You must be a natural born "faultfinder", who has skills in know-how of proofreading and needless to say, impeccable grammar.

Email your comprehensive resumes to apply_bighead@yahoo.com. Indicate desired position as subject. Competitive compensation packages await qualified applicants... rookies need not apply

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- Male
- 23 to 35 years old
- Refrigeration and Air-con Graduate
- At least 2 years work experience in related field

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- Male
- 21 years old
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CADD OPERATORS
- Male/Female
- 23 to 30 years old
- Interior Design/Architecture Graduate

WELDERS
- Male
- 23 to 35 years old
- Welding Technology Graduate
- With experience in electric and gas welding

Send your resumé w/ 2x2 ID picture or apply in person to:

Admin and HRD Department,
Linde Refrigeration Philippines Inc.,
5FRCC Centre, 104 Shaw Blvd Pasig City or through
e-mail address info@linde.com.ph

PHILIPPINE ESTATES CORPORATION

Invites TOP CALIBER individuals for our job openings

General Requirements: Must have excellent oral and written communication skills, computer literate, willing to work long hrs, can work under pressure, willing to travel and can relate well with all levels in the organization

ACCOUNTING STAFF Code: AS
M/F, BS Accountancy grad. w/ at least 2 yrs. experience in Gen. Acctg
Knowledgeable w/ acctng & bookkeeping software

PROPERTY MGT. OFFICER Code: PMO
Grad of Bus Mgt. or CE, Relevant exp in bldg admin or property mgt. Pref. industrial park or subdivision, with Legal background
Able to create harmonious relationship with locators and/or homeowners assn.

TECHNICAL SERVICES HEAD Code: TSH
Licensed Engineer or Architect, At least 5 yrs extensive experience in building and construction supervision and mgt. 3 yrs of which as Head of Operations
Exp must be gained from reputable real estate, consulting or construction firm
Ability to foster and maintain spirit of unity, teamwork and cooperation
Strong work ethics and high integrity

OVERALL MARKETING HEAD Code: OMH
Marketing, Communication Arts or Bus. Adm grad.
At least 5 yrs exp in Real Estate, 3 yrs of which as Marketing Mgr.
Able to conceptualize and implement marketing programs and strategies
Able to lead and train people. With good track record on real estate sales
Strategic Thinker, strong business acumen, ethics and high integrity

ENGINEERS Code: Engr
Licensed Civil Engineer preferred, grad from reputable universities
5 yrs extensive exp in bldg and construction supervision and mgt
Exp must be gained from reputable real estate, consulting or construction firm
Strong work ethics and high integrity

ARCHITECTS Code: Arch
M/F, Licensed, 2 yrs exp. w/ diff. developments (horizontal & vertical), AutoCadd knowledgeable. Has artistic inclination
Knowledgeable in cost estimating, construction mgt, permits & licenses relevant experience gained from reputable construction and development firms

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Code: PDO
Civil Engineer, Architect, Economics grad
3 yrs exp. in real estate company as Proj. Dev. Officer or as Market researcher
Knowledgeable in real asset management and real estate planning and devt
Adept in conducting project/feasibility studies
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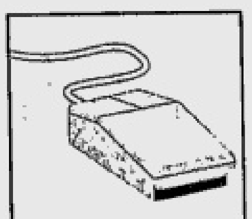

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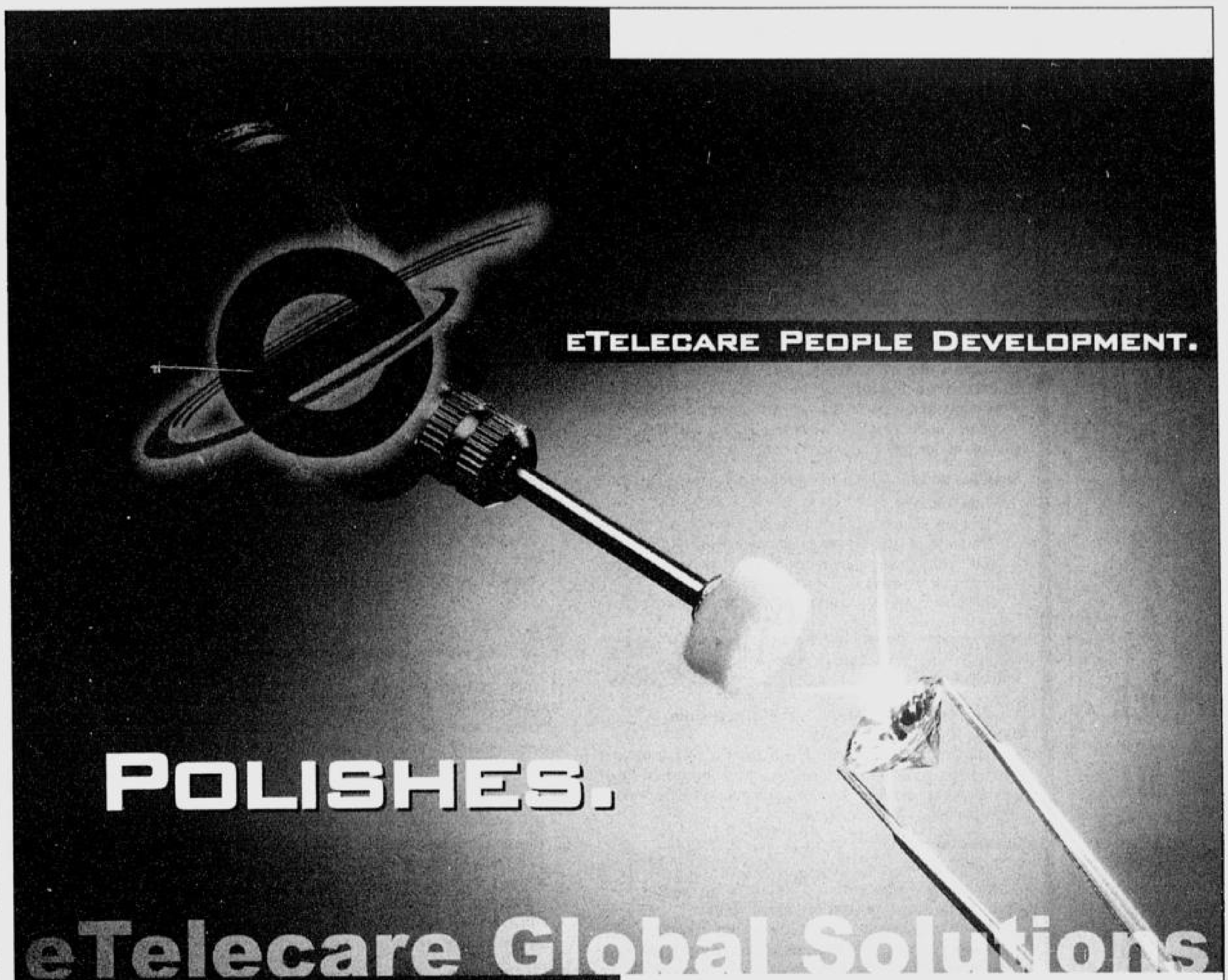

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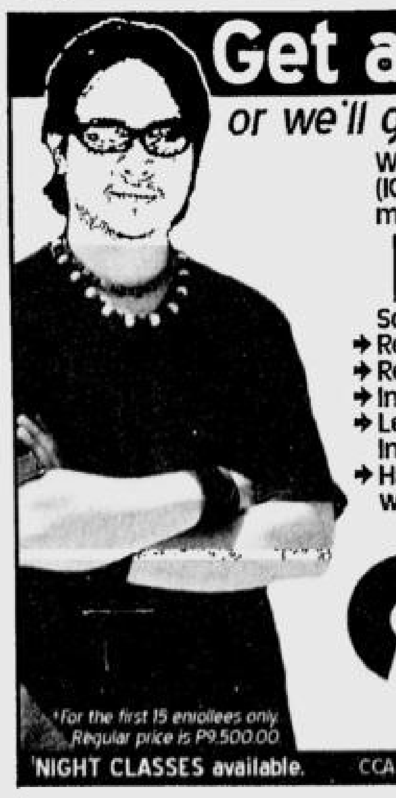

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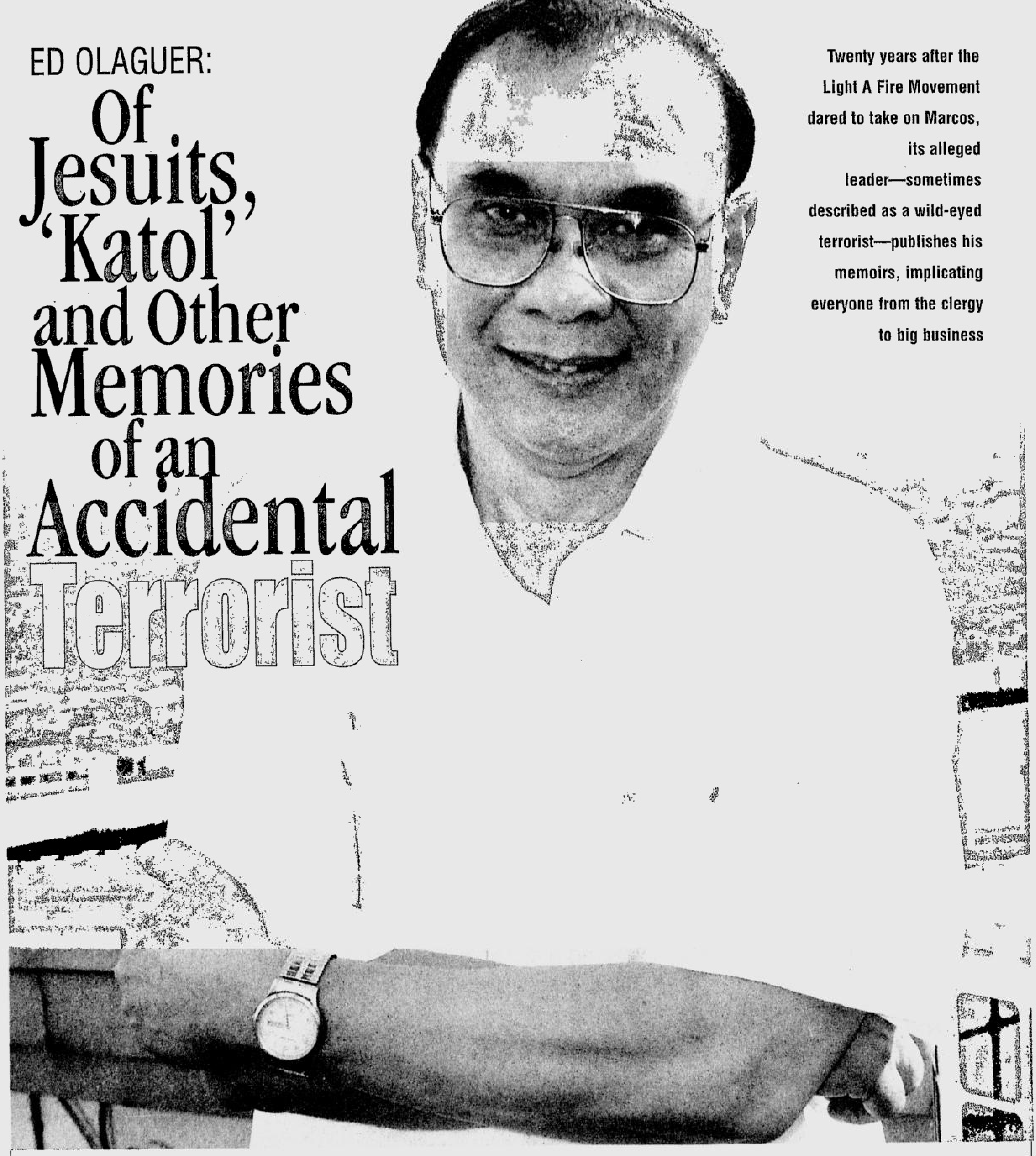

ED OLAGUER:

Of Jesuits, ‘Katol’ and Other Memories of an Accidental Terrorist

Twenty years after the Light A Fire Movement dared to take on Marcos, its alleged leader—sometimes described as a wild-eyed terrorist—publishes his memoirs, implicating everyone from the clergy to big business

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographs by August dela Cruz

“I’M not really a crusader,” says Eduardo “Ed” Olaguer.

“I’m just—what would you call it?—accident-prone,” he says with a laugh.

It is, of course, a joke. No one could have undergone the transformations that he has by accident, unless by “accident” one reads the hand of Divine Providence, as no doubt Olaguer—a lifelong devout Catholic—does.

But what a long, strange trip it’s been.

From Harvard Business School-educated corporate executive in the ’60s, Olaguer was painted in the press as the wild-eyed “terrorist” behind the so-called Light A Fire movement in the late ’70s. He spent the first half of the ’80s as a political prisoner with a death sentence hanging over his head, until his release just before Edsa I in 1986. But rather than receive a hero’s welcome after the fall of Marcos, as other political prisoners did, he was shunned as a political pariah throughout the ’90s, largely because of the “terrorist” tag. Now he has taken up the cudgels again, this time for a return to the more conservative values of the Catholic faith.

At 69, Olaguer continues to confound critics and puzzle even his friends. But, as if in recompense, he has recently published his memoirs. Part *apologia pro vita sua,* part harangue against what he calls “neo-Jesuitry” (about which, more later), “Light A Fire II” is tantalizingly subtitled “Confessions of a Jesuit Terrorist Son.”

“I’m a Jesuit product through and through,” explains Olaguer. “That’s why I call myself a ‘Jesuit terrorist son.’ The Jesuits really started Light a Fire. Now I’m lighting a fire against selected Jesuits. The irony is, some of these were the very same Jesuits who were part of Light A Fire I.”

For most readers, however, Olaguer’s memoirs will be of interest primarily for the light it sheds on the Light A Fire movement, which remains an obscure chapter in our recent history. Although by no means a definitive history, “Light A Fire II” is perhaps the most extensive account published thus far by a principal player.

“After 20 years, I wanted to tell our story,” says Olaguer. “I’ve endured a lot. The ‘terrorist’ label stuck with me for a long time. We were called ‘vandals,’ labeled as ‘inept,’ we were even called ‘Rightists’! We endured it for more than 20 years. We could not defend ourselves at that time because our associates were in politics—*sina* (Jovito) Salonga, (Raul) Manglapus, Cory (Aquino). I had to keep silent.”

But in 2003, at an informal reunion of the surviving Light A Fire conspirators hosted by Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco (who, it can now be told, was one of the movement’s chief financial backers), Olaguer was urged to write a book on the movement, while its remaining members were still breathing. “Light A Fire II” went to press just as the “Hello Garci” controversy hit the front pages.

Olaguer was born in 1936 at the Philippine General Hospital, although he considers Guinobatan, Albay his hometown. The “Jesuit influence” he constantly cites comes from his education, first at the Ateneo de Naga where he finished high school, and later at the University of the Philippines where he came under the wing of legendary chaplain Fr. John Delaney S.J. as a member of the UP Student Catholic Action (UPSCA), while earning an engineering degree. But perhaps the biggest Jesuit influence over his life comes from his elder brother, the late Antonio “Toti” Olaguer S.J., who finally prevailed upon him to join the fight against the Marcos dictatorship.

On the surface, Olaguer would have seemed an unlikely choice. In the late 1970s, he belonged to the “executive class,” having risen through the ranks of the corporate world. He first made his mark at IBM Philippines, so much so that the company sent him to the Harvard Business School for postgraduate studies in management. He next lent his management expertise to the Ayala Corporation, where he earned a reputation as a kind of corporate troubleshooter, able to rehabilitate ailing companies on the brink of bankruptcy and turn them around. In the late 1970s he took over Pantranco North as the man in charge of extricating the company from its mountain of debt. He counted management guru Gaston Z. Ortigas of the Asian Institute of Management among his friends, and

To page 2

Teaching Old—And Young—Dog-Eaters New Tricks, *p.4* • Counting Their Blessings in the Face of the Big C, *p.8*

Ed

...from page 1

also wrote for Business Day, the leading business publication of the time.

In the meantime, of course, Marcos had declared Martial Law, and was well on his way to amassing vast wealth and power. Although he enjoyed the perks of corporate success, and had no ideological background save his UPSCA training, Olaguer says he was "intuitively" against the martial law regime.

"Our struggle was rooted in our faith," he says. "As it was explained to me at the time by my brother, it was part of one's duty as a Christian to do justice. The justice work is rooted in the faith, not in politics, not in the lust for power."

In 1978, the communists, under the National Democratic Front, had already been waging a nationwide guerrilla war from the countryside for more than a decade. For years, their moderate rivals the Social Democrats, or "socdems," had been talking about forming a non-communist "Third Force" against Marcos, although they had been unable to generate significant momentum—at least, not enough to cause Marcos any sleepless nights.

"The group, led by Jovy Salonga, had already adopted armed struggle in principle, initiated by Fr. (Horacio) de la Costa," says Olaguer. "At that time, de la Costa was the chief fund-raiser, because he had the credibility and the connections. In fact, when he died, according to former senator 'Soc' Rodrigo, he still had a list of people he was going to approach for contributions."

By this time too, his elder brother, Fr. Toti, had become chaplain of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP), the "socdem" political party. He had been sent by the Society of Jesus to "tone down" his radical colleague Fr. Archie Intengan, but had ended up being radicalized himself. Naturally, he turned to his management whiz younger brother for help, and Olaguer agreed to go in as a "consultant."

Feeling guilty

"I was feeling guilty about my brother because as a priest, he was already going beyond the requirements of chaplaincy," he says.

He was also stung by a rebuke coming from the late Sr. Christine Tan, who had told him that he and his technocrats were too comfortable, and didn't want to jeopardize their careers and their perks while the nation suffered.

His first mission was to go to Geny Lopez in California to raise funds, but after several fruitless months among the exiled opposition, which included Jake Almeda Lopez, Steve Psinakis, Serge Osmeña, Raul Manglapus, Raul Daza and Norberto Gonzales (later a GMA security adviser), he came home convinced that it was a dead end. Not only did they have no funds to speak of, they were unable to agree on strategy and were fighting among themselves.

"It reminded me of Rizal and the La Solidaridad group in Madrid fighting among themselves," recalls Olaguer. "History was repeating itself! *Kawawa naman ang bayan natin!*" (Pity our country!)

In a "Manila gulag": Olaguer at the Bicutan detention center in 1984

Clutching at straws, the exiles cooked up one harebrained scheme after another. The extremists among the group, for instance, hatched a plan to kidnap their most generous benefactor, Alfonso Yuchengco, and hold him for ransom. They also suggested holding up the Philippine National Bank branch at the World Trade Center. Luckily, after a sobering reality check, the proverbial cooler heads among them prevailed. Some even suggested joining the hunt for Marcos' fabled gold hoard, while others envisioned a MacArthur style guerrilla landing, no matter that they had no arms and no money to buy them.

Fiasco continued

Back in Manila, recounts Olaguer, the fiasco continued. The PDSP leadership had splintered, and the party had expelled both Fr. Intengan and Bert Gonzales. Previously, they had told Olaguer that, provided funds and arms, the PDSP could muster 500,000 fighters out of a mass base of five million. This turned out to be a hallucination. Olaguer conducted an organizational audit, and he discovered that not only was there no mass base to speak of, but that the "armed group" numbered not 500,000, not 5,000, not even 50, but five! And of the five, only one actually showed up (According to Olaguer, it was Gonzales himself, now GMA's National Security Adviser.)

Eventually, the US-based opposition sent a plan for what Olaguer describes as an "Arafat/IRA-style" urban insurrection campaign of bombings and small armed actions against government and crony establishments, which the Manila leadership promptly vetoed as unacceptable.

Meanwhile, cracks were beginning to show in the Marcos regime. On April 6, 1978—the night before the scheduled Batasang Pambansa election—Manila had erupted in a four-hour noise barrage, the largest sign of anti-Marcos sentiment thus far among the general citizenry.

"That's how it ended up," recalls Olaguer. "We had to come up with an alternative plan, and we were thrust in the role of core staff, planners and implementers." "We" at the time meant a handful of Olaguer's recruits from among former colleagues in the UPSCA and IBM, including Otto Jimenez, AIM professor Gaston Ortigas, Gus Lagman, and 60-year-old grandmother Ester Misa Jimenez.

"We didn't even bother to give ourselves a name," he says.

Fair chance

After days of brainstorming sessions, the group finally came out with its first communiqué, signed simply "Ang Taong Bayan." It began:

"Dear fellow citizen: Good news! We have found it at last. How to fight the Marcos dictatorship. With a fair chance of succeeding.

Light a fire!"

Olaguer's blueprint was to conduct "symbolic" actions against "structures of oppression," without killing or maiming anyone.

"Our intention is not to harm nor kill," the communiqué continued. "But we will remove Marcos or force him to quit. By depriving him of the ability to govern. Without this ability, no dictator can remain in power."

The formula was simple: literally light a fire, in a government or crony-owned structure, with maximum visibility but minimal risk to life or limb. The ideal incendiary device came to Olaguer during an all-night brainstorming session, where the group had broken out spontaneously into the UPSCA song: "Ka-to-lik action... *katol!*" Not only was the lowly mosquito coil cheap and ubiquitous, it burned at a predictable rate and was an ideal timer for an incendiary device, giving ample time for the arsonist to make a clean getaway without arousing suspicion.

"It was doable, it was moral, it would be inspiring," recalls Olaguer. "And it was a poor man's warfare—you didn't need $500 or an AK 47. For one peso, you can join. And it's non-lethal."

Unknown origin

Within weeks the plan was put into action, and a number of well-publicized fires of unknown origin broke out in the city, conspicuously at establishments owned by Marcos cronies, such as Rustan's department store, the Sulo Hotel and the Floating Casino.

"That's where the problems started," he says. "When we started being at least nominally successful, our friends started to tell us: 'Ed, you're such a boy scout, why don't you use some C-4, *katol* is too primitive.' Being of flesh and blood, we gave in to criticism."

By this time, the military had gotten wind of the movement. One member had already been arrested, and friends were urging Olaguer to flee the country. He agreed, after one final blow against the regime, the movement's long-cherished dream of toppling the Channel 4 broadcast tower, and destroying the printing presses of the crony newspapers. The plan was set on New Year's Eve, when presumably the noise of firecrackers would cover the explosions. This would require real explosives, however, and the promised C-4 from the US was long in coming. Unbeknownst to Olaguer, one of the members tried to source some dynamite locally, which turned out to be their undoing. Alerted by this red flag, military intelligence began to close its dragnet on the conspirators.

Mastermind

On Christmas Eve of 1978, soldiers arrested Olaguer and his companions in a Quezon City house. Days later, a bleary-eyed Ed Olaguer was charged with rebellion and terrorism, paraded before the media and named as the mastermind behind the Light A Fire movement. The name stuck, and a "terrorist" was born. After nearly five years of ping-ponging between their detention cells and various tribunals, a military court sentenced Olaguer and his co-accused to death by electrocution.

After Olaguer's arrest, however, Ninoy Aquino and Steve Psinakis in the US and Nats Tanada in Manila took up the Light A Fire agenda. They renamed themselves the "April 6 Liberation Movement" and proceeded to escalate the "symbolic acts" of resistance, this time with more devastating results. This time there were also casualties. One was would-be bomber Victor Burns Lovely, who lost an arm and an eye when the device he was carrying exploded prematurely. The bombings culminated in the Oct. 1980 bombing of the American Society of Travel Agents convention at the PICC which injured about 20, among them pop singer Nonoy Zuñiga, whose leg had to be amputated.

"I still claim moral responsibility for it," says Olaguer. "Ninoy sent us a message saying he had adopted our plan lock, stock and barrel."

During his ordeal as a political detainee, Olaguer turned to writing. One early effort, written as a lengthy letter to Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, was addressed "from a Manila gulag" and subsequently published in a religious journal. There was also no love lost between Olaguer's group and their fellow "Natdem" detainees, who looked on the Light A Fire movement as misguided adventurists at best, as rank amateurs at worst.

However, Olaguer's Jesuit connection continued to work in his favor, particularly in Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's constant appeals to Marcos to free him and his co-accused. Finally, in December of 1985, Marcos relented and ordered Olaguer's release as a "New Year's gift" to the Cardinal. On January 16, 1986 just weeks before Marcos' own hasty departure, Olaguer walked out of prison.

Stirring controversy

Nearly 20 years later, however, Ed Olaguer is still capable of stirring controversy. The last quarter of his book is devoted to his attack on what he calls "neo-Jesuitry," which is to say the modernist tendencies exhibited by the "progressive" elements in the Church. This, he says, was largely prompted by the Society of Jesus' refusal to give his late brother's manuscript, a collection of homilies and writings, its imprimatur.

The debate is best left to those of a theological bent, but is Olaguer's latest movement a case of "scratch a radical and you'll find a conservative underneath"?

"Was I radical?" he says. "Yes, because at that time it was radical for Catholics to be motivated by faith to fight for justice, to the point of using arms. Am I conservative? Yes, because that's the way it is pejoratively used by so-called progressives to label us. There's already pre-judging in the labeling."

At 69, Olaguer is still capable of confounding critics and puzzling friends, and he shows no signs of slowing down. Already, he says, he is working on "Light A Fire III," this time aimed at irregularities in banking and finance. (For the past several years, Olaguer and fellow investors have been embroiled in a legal battle with a bank over what he says is the illegal foreclosure of their property, the 18-story Aurora Milestone Tower building in Quezon City .)

"I've done my share," he says. "I'm 69 years old—I think I deserve a rest."

Good luck on that.

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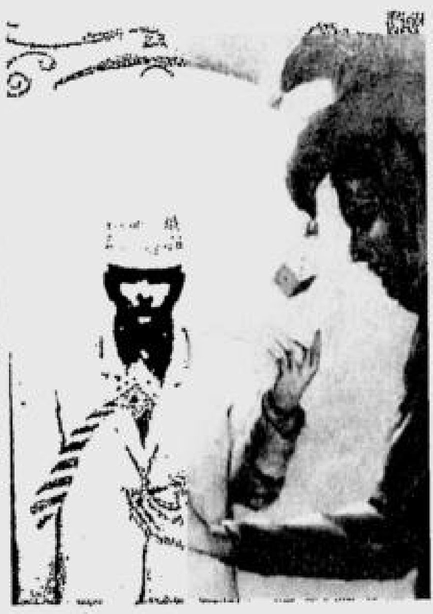


ART PALETTE COLLECTION The Crucible Gallery presents "Through the Palette's Eye," an exhibit of 21 palette paintings from the collection of Singapore-based couple, Rico and Melannie Hizon until Sept. 18. The palettes, which come in various shapes and sizes, feature the paintings of Filipino masters Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Bencab and Malang along with other artists. In photo is "The Gambit" by Jose Santos III.

The Blank Stairs

Where the ghost was said
To have appeared.

Expect from it
An outline

Of what isn't.
Flashlit,

Expect a face
So we can say, finally,

We are scared
Of something.

I don't know whose hand
Touches me

Now, but it is dead.
Soon, I will be too.

Paolo Manalo

Closing Time

Ngayon nagaganap ang lahat;
nagpipinid ang pandama, nagsasalikop
ang mga dahilang kanina'y hindi mapaknit
sa isipan, nagwawakas na walang anumang iniiwan
sa sarili, sa sariling itinakdang manatili sa harap
ng mumunting biyaya. Bumababa na ang marangal
na liwanag, humahatag sa ngayo'y makintab na sahig,
pumapanaw sa naglalaparang salamin
na may bahagya pang bakas ng kamay
ng batang kumain ng *spaghetti* at manok.
Ikakandado ang ngayo'y hungkag nang pinto.
At lilisan akong muli na payapang-payapa
habang higit pang dumidilim
ang konkretong mundo na panandalian
kong iiwan.

Genaro R. Gojo Cruz

Errata:

*In the story, "Just Being There To See His Adopted Land," (**SIM**, 4 Sept. 2005), we mistakenly identified the Filipino Heritage encyclopedia as the Philippine Heritage Encyclopedia. The encyclopedia was edited by Alfredo Roces, and not Alejandro Roces.*

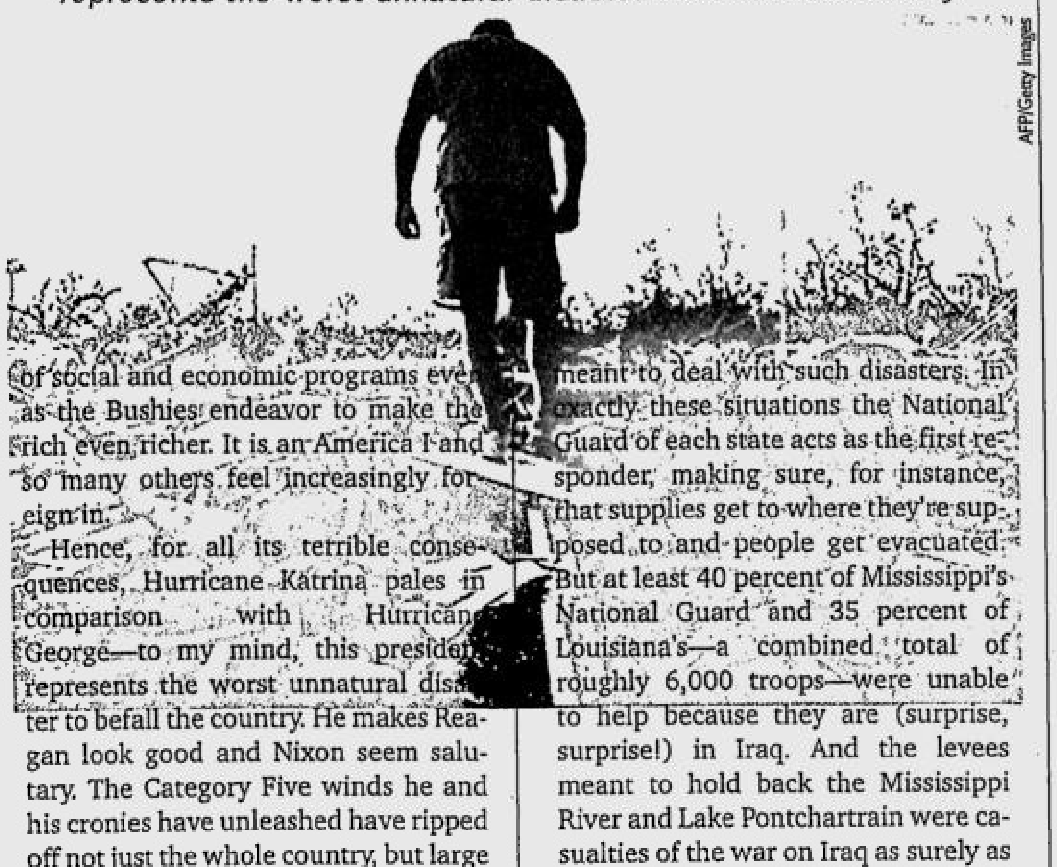
*In the story, "His Novel Approach," (**SIM**, 11 Sept. 2005), the Palanca Grand Prize for Novel was said to be given out every four years; it is awarded every three years. **SIM** regrets the errors*

The Artist Abroad

Luis H. Francia

Hurricane Katrina *and* Hurricane George: Guess Which Is Worse

For all its terrible consequences, Hurricane Katrina pales in comparison with Hurricane George—to my mind, this president represents the worst unnatural disaster to befall the country



AFP/Getty Images

NEW YORK—Last week, I wasn't going to write about the fourth anniversary of 9/11, since so much has been said on a tragedy that continues to be a source of pain and embarrassment for this country. Then Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, devastating New Orleans, Gulfport, Biloxi, and smaller towns and communities that lay in its path. Katrina may very well end up being the worst natural disaster to hit this country. A million people have been displaced—the largest number of Americans, apparently, since the Civil War; economic damage is in billions of dollars; and environmentally, New Orleans has become a toxic nightmare. Just as sadly, the city known as the Big Easy—a vibrant, Creole- and jazz-rich antidote to the many soulless white-bread urban areas of America—may never rise from the muck.

Television images of people on rooftops frantically signaling for help, dead bodies abandoned in the swirling currents, the hungry and the thirsty breaking into stores out of desperation (if you were stranded without food or water, what would you do?), and, above all, the preponderance of blacks among the suffering, reminded viewers of similar catastrophes in countries like Haiti and Sri Lanka, which have much, much less resources than good ol' U.S.A. For Filipinos, such images evoked the shockingly familiar. (At least, we could take some if small comfort from the fact that we're used to such apocalyptic visitations from Mother Nature, and go on living.) For a large number of Americans, the scenes provoked widespread disbelief that this was happening in a nation that incessantly promotes itself as the richest and most powerful—though, one notes, not the wisest or most compassionate. The failure of Washington to respond swiftly and capably was quickly condemned by an irate public.

So I write this in anger, an anger that has its origins in the wrong-headed war on Iraq and its irrelevance to 9/11, an anger stoked to new heights by the Bush administration's callous and indifferent regard for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, a regard that conveys the feeling that the suffering people of New Orleans, mostly black, mostly poor, are separate from the rest of the country. And indeed, in Bush's America, they are. His America is no country for old men or old women. His America is not for the poor, the weak, not for the worker, nor even for the middle-class. His America is not for secularists or people of color. His America is not for those who dare to think critically and imaginatively. Bush's America is a coldhearted place, a sterile temple of privatization (not to mention deprivation) where deities have names like Halliburton and Bechtel. Such cold-heartedness is very much of a piece with the fake flyboy and his coterie of chicken hawks' Neanderthal war that has eaten up, and continues to do so, the lives of Iraqis and Americans, wasted a huge budget surplus accumulated under the Clinton administration, and siphoned off funds from a diverse array of social and economic programs even as the Bushies endeavor to make the rich even richer. It is an America I and so many others feel increasingly foreign in.

Hence, for all its terrible consequences, Hurricane Katrina pales in comparison with Hurricane George—to my mind, this president represents the worst unnatural disaster to befall the country. He makes Reagan look good and Nixon seem salutary. The Category Five winds he and his cronies have unleashed have ripped off not just the whole country, but large swaths of the world, in their Ahab-like pursuit of some grandiose and contradictory notion of a democratic American Empire that is at the same time profitable to his corporate minders. There's solace to be had in the fact that Moby Dick in the end proves to be the mad captain's undoing. But the comparison does an injustice to Ahab, who was a superb seaman and notorious workaholic. Bush, on the other hand, hates having his month-long vacation at his ranch interrupted; it took five days after Katrina struck for him to visit the ravaged areas—an eerie reminder of mid August 2001, when he was handed the memo that said clearly Al-Qaeda was planning to attack the US, and he did precisely nothing.

Compounding the tragedy of Katrina has been the dwindling of resources meant to deal with such disasters. In exactly these situations the National Guard of each state acts as the first responder, making sure, for instance, that supplies get to where they're supposed to and people get evacuated. But at least 40 percent of Mississippi's National Guard and 35 percent of Louisiana's—a combined total of roughly 6,000 troops—were unable to help because they are (surprise, surprise!) in Iraq. And the levees meant to hold back the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain were casualties of the war on Iraq as surely as if they had been in Falluja. For years, the Army Corps of Engineers desperately tried to get the funds to prepare for just the kind of flooding—predicted in many studies—that left 80 percent of New Orleans underwater. Since 2004, the New Orleans Times-Picayune has regularly cited the cost of the war as the reason for the drastic cutbacks. In June of that year, the emergency management chief for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, told the paper: "It appears that the money has been moved in the president's budget to handle homeland security and the war in Iraq, and I suppose that's the price we pay. Nobody locally is happy that the levees can't be finished, and we are doing everything we can to make the case that this is a security issue for us." All those monies go supposedly towards the exercise of democracy in Iraq—channeled naturally through private contractors. It's like that joke where one drunk asks another drunk to place a keg of beer at his gravesite when he's gone. To which his fellow souse replies, "Sure, but do you mind if the beer goes through me first?"

As for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, its flatfooted response in the first week was unforgivable. There was an overwhelming cry that its head, Michael Brown, be fired for incompetence. Only days after the fact did the man, for instance, learn that people were being temporarily sheltered in the New Orleans Superdome. And how did the president initially react to the criticism? He praised Brown for a job well done. What planet is this man living on? But once the polls showed Bush's popularity rating going south at an alarming rate, Brown was gone. (Incidentally, Brown was forced to resign from his prior job as a commissioner of the International Arabian Horse Association. I guess the horses complained.)

What's most dispiriting—and infuriating—is the fact that the brunt of suffering has been borne mostly by poor, black folks. Thirty percent of New Orleans lives in poverty and thousands of residents had no transportation to get out of town—no cars, no buses, no trains, no SUVs. The haves in the meantime were able to hightail it, thus avoiding Katrina's wrath. Bush has tried to regain ground by visiting the devastated region at least thrice more, mouthing platitudes. But if the past five years under this administration has taught me one thing, it is to believe the opposite of what he says. So much of this government's true agenda—from undermining environmental policies to injecting religion into science, from weakening civil rights to gutting Social Security—has given the lie to his stance as a compassionate conservative. If anyone still subscribes to Dubya's claim that he cares, or that he knows what he is doing, or that the invasion of Iraq was for America's safety, do let me know. I have a terrific bridge in Brooklyn, slightly used, available for a ridiculously low price. Unlike Bush's policies, it's the product of intelligent design. Q

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, September 18, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN				Nat'l Basketball League				Tinig ng Bayan (Live)			The Working President	Battle Royale		The Sports List	Go For Gold		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Diving
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Qpids		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K	Pinoy Big Brother	TV Patrol World	Search For A Star In A Million		Sunday Family Cinema			
ABC 5		Ringside		WNCAA Highlights	Brunei Cup									Hollywood Dream		Maximedia Specials			
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love			S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul			Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		Celebrity Poker Showdown				Sure Hits	The Working President
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		The Life And Hopes Of Jaime Cardinal Sin		Sine Asia				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
SBN 21		Gabay At Aksyon		Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon		SBN Sing Along	
Studio 23								Nginiig: The Hidden Files		Y Speak		Two & A Half Men	Joey	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)		Buffy The Vampire Slayer	Chefs On The Go
MTV Philippines	MTV Lokal	Cribs	MTV Live		Meet The Barkers	Punk'D	Pimp My Ride	Spring Break	MTV Screen	2005 MTV VMAs Pre-show by the Shore		2005 MTV Video Music Awards				Whatever Things	Rockola	MTV Play	MTV Live
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Hit Chart				My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	Next@CNN
ESPN		Major League Baseball										Major League Baseball							
Solar Sports		TV Shopping		WTA 2005				WNBA Action	FIVB World Grand Prix '05				Sports Desk	Boxing: Barrera vs. Peden					
Sports Plus		84 Lumber Classics Day3						Celebrity Poker Tournament				Raceworld			Inside the PGA				
Cinemax			A League Of Their Own				Lost Treasure (5:45PM)				Sliver (7:20PM)			Wild Things 2: The Glades			Forever Young (10:35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Ladies Man	Cleopatra				Cleopatra				Clipping Adam				Mona Docteur Ray			Wire In The Blood (10:35PM)		
Disney Channel		Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Kim Possible	House Of Mouse	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Extreme Engineering		Mummy Autopsy		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Last Mysteries Of Titanic				Power Zone	
National Geographic		No Borders				Crocodile Chronicle	Chimp Diaries	Innovation: Megacities Week		The Mafia/ Megacities Week		Megastructures/ Megacities Week		Best Of The Week		No Borders		Seconds From Disaster	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Mysteries	Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	In Search Of Dr. Seuss				Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Justice League	Harvey Birdman (11:15PM)	Mission Hill
Nickelodeon	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Passion For Pastry		More Child Stars Of The 80's		West Side Story				Style Star	It's Good To Be
Star World	Arrested Development/Less Than Perfect	The Apprentice		Tru Calling		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	One Tree Hill		The Simpsons	Kumars At 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		Nighty Night		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
AXN	CSI: Miami (Season 3)			Mondo Magic	Mondo Magic	Boarding Pass	Megaramp-Jump In Beijing, China	AXN Shakedown		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Fear Factor (Season V)			CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: NY (Season I)		CSI: Miami (Season 3)
JackTV		Reno 911	Blue Collar TV	X-Play	Sweat	Street Smart	The Sib Show	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				Shorties Watching Shorties	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Veronica Mars		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Outback Jack/ Love Shack		ET Weekend	
HBO		Carnivale 12: The Day That Was The Day		Mona Lisa Smile				Detonator			HBO Sneak Peek: Elf	The Core				Iron Jawed Angels (10:15PM)			
Star Movies				Bridget Jones's Diary (4:15PM)				Austin Powers International Man Of Mystery			Laws Of Attraction (7:25PM)			Love Actually				She's The One (11:10PM)	
Cinema One				Feng Shui		Jeannie Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang				Pa-Siyam				Markova: Comfort Gay					
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15PM)	EWTN Bookmark	Adventures In Odyssey	Faith Factory D	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Global Showcase		Octavio Dias	Fr. John Corapi		Sunday Mass				The World Over	Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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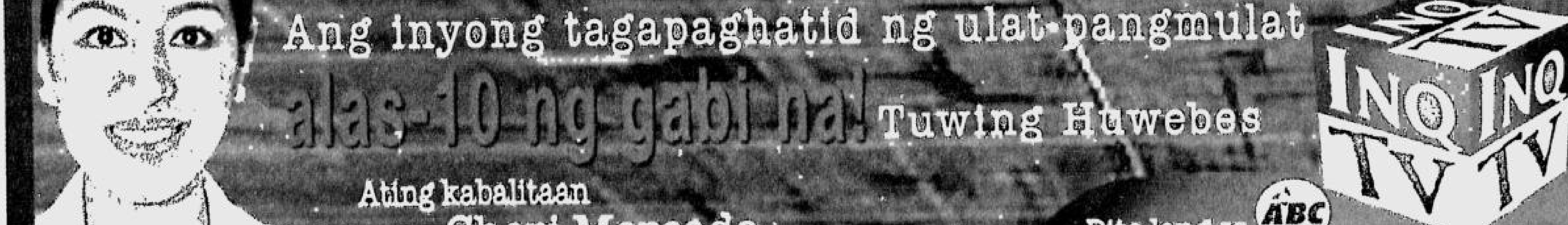


People for the Planet

by Marlet D. Salazar

Teaching Old—and Young—Dog-Eaters New Tricks

Growing up in a household full of pets has convinced former English car dealer Charles Wartenberg that a better world exists outside the doggone life we're used to. For this animal rights activist, putting more teeth into the law against the illegal trade in dog meat is the way to go

AFTER taking a meal with a raiding team in a restaurant in Tarlac, Charles Wartenberg gathered all their leftovers and mixed the fried chicken scraps with his untouched cup of rice. It was literally a doggy bag: it's typical for the Englishman to share his meal with animals, and this time, the food was meant for the dogs that the group had just seized from a slaughterhouse in La Trinidad, Benguet.

"The welfare of animals is serious business for Charles," says one of his staff at the five-year-old Animal Kingdom Foundation Inc. (AKF) which Wartenberg founded to put an end to the illegal dog meat trade in the Philippines. His work, however, officially started in the mid-1970s when, with wife Julie, he set up the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in the United Kingdom.

Compassion and shock

Wartenberg was working as a disc jockey for private parties in the UK when he learned from media about the massive seal hunting in Canada. Compassion and shock at the sight of bloodied seal pups, clubbed and skinned, compelled him to do something. Together with friends, he spearheaded fund-raising campaigns, among them renting out audio equipment for parties, discos, and weddings, that benefited IFAW in the United States. The efforts led him to work full-time with IFAW, an animal welfare and conservation organization that protects animals and their environments worldwide.

While with IFAW, Wartenberg worked in Spain for about two to three years, checking out festivals that showed cruelty to animals. These included throwing a live goat from a church steeple, beheading geese by tying them upside down, riding past on horseback and pulling their heads off, and driving young bulls into the sea until they nearly drowned.

He has also worked on a variety of animal cruelty issues in New Zealand, Greenland, South America and Africa.

As a representative of the International Wildlife Coalition Trust (IWCT), Wartenberg recently signed an agreement with the Korean Kennel Club for a joint project that will benefit cats and dogs. Like the Philippines, Korea is open about serving dog and cat meat in restaurants. The IWTC is dedicated to public education, research, rescue, rehabilitation, litigation, legislation, and international treaty organizations concerning global wildlife and natural habitat protection issues.

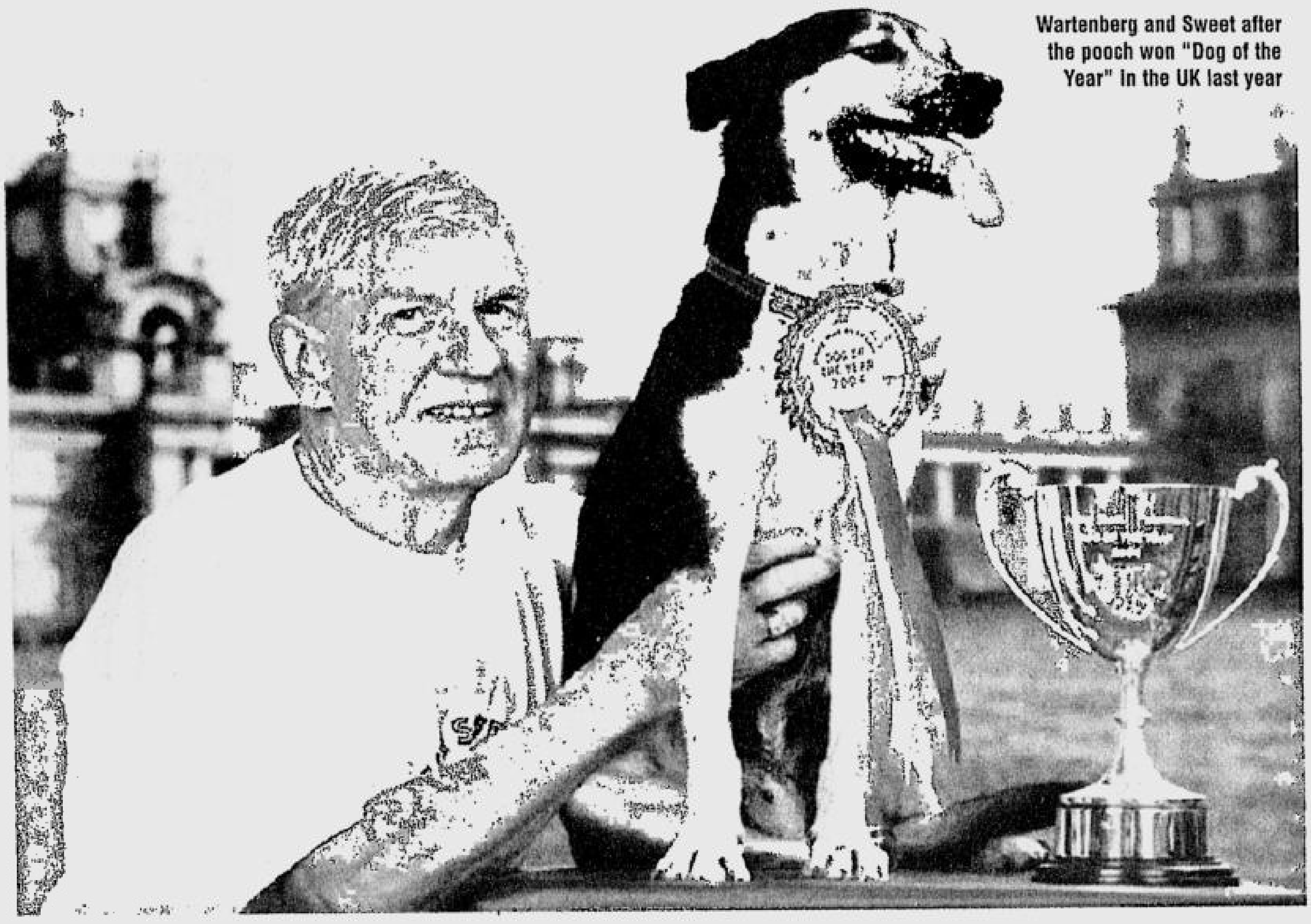
"But now, with the passage of time," says Wartenberg in an e-mail interview, "I feel it is best to concentrate on one project, one I started over 20 years ago: the Philippine dog issue."

The former car dealer in the UK first came across an article about the illegal trade of dog meat in the country while he was doing research work for IWCT. "I consider it better to have a locally based organization in the country where IWCT is working," says this full-time director of the Coalition. That, he adds, would cast aside the possibility of being looked upon as a foreigner meddling in local cultural practices, something he frowns upon.

Right and wrong

"I don't believe I am meddling in other people's culture," he explains. "But I think the word 'culture' is used as an excuse to try and exclude people from being guilty of the wrong they are doing. Anybody in my view with one ounce of common sense knows the difference between right and wrong, and in my view, culture doesn't come into it at all," he says.

Initially, Wartenberg put out newspaper ads about the campaign to stop the illegal slaughter of dogs for human consumption, using mainly research work. In June 2001, he sought the help of former advertising executive Suzanne Llanera to establish AKF, a local affiliate of IWCT that depends on public donations for its funding.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wartenberg and Sweet after the pooch won "Dog of the Year" in the UK last year

Although an affiliate of IWCT, the local organization depends on public donations for its funding.

His staff describes the 72-year-old chief executive of AKF as a no-nonsense and hands-on worker who personally unties the dogs they've rescued and makes sure that the canines have enough food and water during the long road trip to Manila. "He treats the dogs like babies," says Llanera, now the officer in charge of the foundation. In fact, she adds, Wartenberg can get very emotional and agitated during the raids. "He is not annoyed with the traders," she says. "He hates them."

The feeling can sometimes be mutual. The group's efforts have met with criticism and even a court case in Baguio. Freddie Farres of Linis Gobyerno has charged Wartenberg and some of his staff with violating the Animal Welfare Act or Republic Act 8485 of 1998. Wartenberg has been working on amending this very same law to give it more teeth in stopping animal cruelty. "It is really a challenge because the law is practically 'toothless,' and metes out minor penalties to violators," he says.

With help from local authorities, AKF has arrested traders who slaughter dogs and pass off their meat as goat meat in public markets. Aside from slaughtering the dogs, traders are notorious for their inhumane treatment of pooches which are hogtied, transported in cramped cages, muzzled with rusting tin cans, and so on.

Taking charge

Once they hear about it, researchers of the foundation investigate the reported illegal activities in the dog trade and keep a strict surveillance to check if a reliable pattern is taking place. The matter is then reported to a special police task force. Together, they plan and jointly conduct a raid, with the Foundation filing charges and the police taking charge of the suspects. The dogs, live and butchered, are handed over to the Foundation. Live pooches are transported to the Manila Dog Pound where some of them end up being adopted. Currently, AKF has six full-time employees: four investigator/researchers, a veterinarian and a coordinator. The group is assisted by a lawyer.

Wartenberg's passion for animals started when he was a child growing up in a house where cats were always running around. At the age of 12, he had his first heartbreak when he lost his puppy, Bob. "Bob used to come and meet me from school," Wartenberg recounts. "Sadly, one day, when he was coming to meet me, he got run over by an army lorry. I found him dead on the road."

Because he and Julie don't have any children, Wartenberg takes their two dogs, Sweet and Summer, for regular morning walks in Edenbridge, Kent, while Julie and their cat Saffy wait for them in the house. Sweet is the Philippine mongrel rescued during one of AKF's operations in Baguio. An Alsatian or German Shepherd, Summer was adopted from the dog pound after she was found abandoned in a car. And Saffy? "The cat just came and plunked herself upon us," Wartenberg says. Julie is also involved in animal welfare, running an animal sanctuary, mainly for donkeys and horses, in Egypt.

Wartenberg's work in the Philippines has just started. He is determined to bring an end to the illegal trade of dogs for human consumption "by whatever legal means possible." Q

Love Notes

Joe D'Mango

The Next Best Girl for Him

I started feeling sorry for myself for not letting other men come into my life, for not letting myself experience the wonder of being in love with someone else. Maybe with other guys, I'd feel more important

Dear Joe,

I'm the type of person who plans my future. I carefully plan how I reach my goals and make it a point that things fall in the right place. I may have been "gimikera" during my high school and college years, but I managed to keep my grades high. I promised myself not to get involved in any relationship until my last term in college, despite the fact that a lot of guys were trying to win me over.

During my last term in college, I developed a crush on Vince. We were carpooling and I would drive him home because he didn't have a car. During one of our talks, he mentioned how he loved his Chinese girlfriend at that time. Unfortunately, Vince was not accepted by his girlfriend's family because he was not Chinese, and the girl was forced to leave him.

My best friend, knowing that I liked Vince, did everything to hook us up. When she learned that he broke up with his girl, she firmed up some plans with my consent. Vince and I became classmates in one subject and he started courting me.

After several months of courtship, we ended up together. He was my first boyfriend ever and I was so excited. I was also idealistic. I wanted things to be as perfect as they could be. As they say, when you're in love, you tend to do silly things, which I did. I was supposed to graduate with flying colors, but I chose to spend more time with Vince. I dropped one subject and extended my stay in school. I gave all my love and sweetness to him, but things didn't turn out as expected.

I remembered the first time that Vince, his ex-GF and I went to a party. He never bothered to introduce me to his ex as his current girl, nor did he show in any way that we're a couple. I later learned that he and his ex were still writing each other and talking on the phone. When I confronted him about this, he told me that those were just friendly gestures and that it was I whom he loved and cared for. He said he was sorry for hurting me and that he'd make up for it.

I was hopelessly idealistic so even if I got hurt, I readily forgave him. I love him but the past still haunts me. It's a matter that prevents me from moving on. Yes, we ended up together after six and a half years of an on-and-off relationship. I gave birth to a little princess.

But recently, the "what if" syndrome has caught up with me. I started feeling sorry for myself for not letting other men come into my life, for not letting myself experience the wonder of being in love with someone else. Maybe with other guys, I'd feel more important. Maybe they'd put me on a pedestal to make me feel that I am really worth keeping. Joe, I do not like what I'm feeling right now. I am still trying to convince myself that my husband loves me and that I'm not just a "panakip-bu-

To page 7

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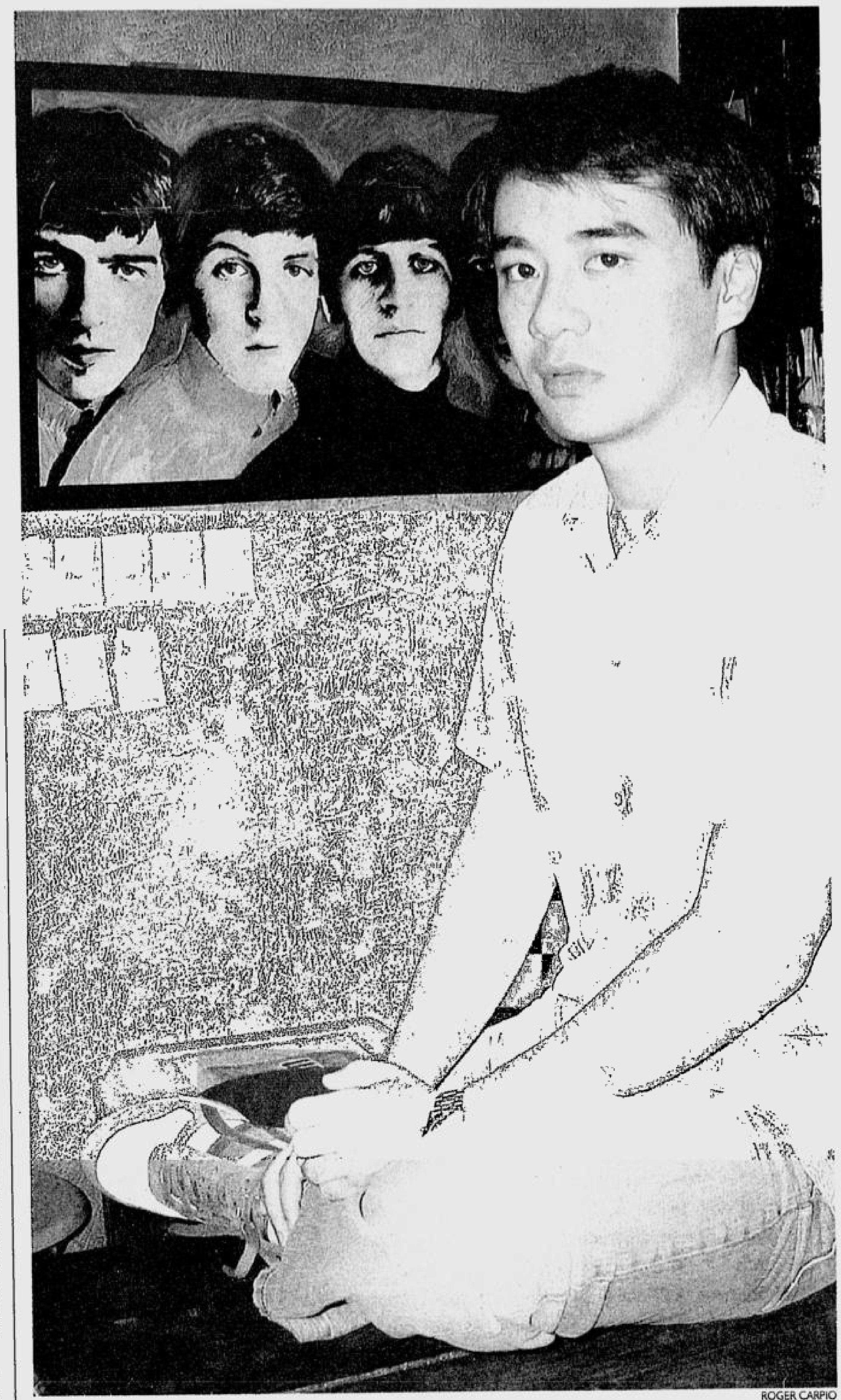
v Lourd Ernest H. De Veyra

The Fan Who Gave ive Music New Home

Coming back home from New York after 9/11, Angelo Carlos and his friends opened saGuijo, now the hottest live band joint in the city since Club Dredd. Still, insists the erstwhile DJ and art student, it's really all about the music



ROGER CARPIO

'PICAL dialogue last year:

Where's this band playing tonight?"

SaGuijo."

Saan 'yun?"

***Sa* Guijo Street, *sa* Makati."**

Sa... saan uli?"

hat was last year. Now, saGuijo Café and Bar become a vital geographic landmark for al- t anyone with even the slightest interest in local band scene. It's currently one of the bus- live band venues in Manila that offers a va- of musical acts, from indie rock to electronic ce to jazz to soul to hip-hop, and everything in veen. Almost every band, whether established nsigned, has played here, with the exception hose who do covers of "Play That Funky Mu- and "Let's Groove Tonight" at the slightest of a napkin.

aGuijo's well-lighted facade beams promi- tly in the middle of Guijo Street in San Anto- Village, Makati. What used to be a quiet res- ntial area has now become a frenetic hive of vity, especially during weekends, with stylish- arbed hipsters and "beautiful people" spilling onto the streets, cars jostling for parking e and nearby *sari-sari* stores open till late rs to serve beer to those who could no longer ccommodated inside. During such times, 28- -old Angelo Carlos, owner of saGuijo, would ys be ready with flowers and pastries to ap- se the irate head of the neighborhood associ- n and other residents complaining of perenni- blocked driveways.

Rapid popularity

usiness picked up only in October of 2004, as friends advised Carlos to close shop be- se very little was happening. The rapid popu- y of saGuijo in just over a year, its owner de- bes as "way beyond expectations. We just ned this bar for friends, *para tambayan lang*" t a place to hang out). Indeed, the first few nths, one could see the same familiar faces ging out—not just from the band biosphere, also from the young artists community bred he Theo Gallery on the second floor, an alter- ve contemporary art space (Their opening w was a Louie Cordero exhibit charmingly ti- "If Assholes Could Fly, This Place Would Be Airport").

hat was last year. Today, especially during kends and production nights, "intimate" is no ger an apt description—not with the densely ked crowds jostling for viewing and breathing e. To begin with, the venue's space is more ed for a cozy bistro than a rock and roll dive. such is the traffic that saGuijo currently at- ts that they had to move the smallish stage to opposite end of the floor and tear down one re wall. When they celebrated their anniver- a few months ago, it was unimaginable how ast 700 bodies could have possibly moved in out of that place.

sked about saGuijo's success, Carlos notes, "I k it was just good timing. People got tired of bars, all those foreign guest DJs. People start- ooking inward and found how much good tal- there is here." All this, he says, "with no ad- ising, no media hype."

Petri dish

Vhile many original habitués may object, some ple are referring to the place as the "new Club dd," the fabled hole on Timog (later trans- ed to Cubao) that became the petri dish for al- ative Pinoy rock culture from the late '80s to mid-'90s. "It's flattering, of course," says Car- who does not hide the fact that saGuijo tries voke the same spirit because he used to go to ld a lot when he was younger. In fact, last De- ber, saGuijo organized a "Dredd Night" in ute to the legendary club. But Club Dredd this ainly is not, at least aesthetically speak- —not the vintage aura radiated by old tiles wood, the artsy décor, warm lighting, and the shly clean restrooms.

arlos admits to a fascination for "old things," icularly Victorian designs, and a fondness for exture of antiquated wood and intricate carvings. This aesthetic sense, in fact, prevails all over saGuijo—an old-world, almost gothic, atmosphere mingling with the hip and the new. The bar's design was achieved with the help of friends from the UP College of Fine Arts who share Carlos' fondness for antiquity. They took this delectation quite literally: They went to Sampaloc rummaging antique houses for wood, tiles, windows, and other materials salvaged from old demolished houses.

The presence of the vintage clothing and accessories boutique I Love You Store (one of the owners, Mimi Sanson, was a Brent School classmate) on the second floor has also managed to draw in the fashionista crowd. "We have a symbiotic relationship," Carlos explains. "They pay the rent. I know absolutely nothing about women's fashion."

Quiet presence

Every night, the boyish-looking Carlos is mostly a quiet presence weaving his way through the crowd, displaying none of that frantic managerial air. If you didn't know him, you'd think he was just one of the college kids hanging around. If he's not having tea inside his second floor office, he's moving around, checking things and mingling with friends and patrons with a glass of scotch in hand.

Carlos' choice of aural candy is mainly deep house and trip hop. In fact, he used to DJ in San Francisco and owns an extensive vinyl collection. He operates saGuijo with his business partner, Dan Lim, who holds a Hotel & Restaurant Management degree from Switzerland. Carlos takes care of the music and the programming, while Lim handles the food and beverage department (He highly recommends their *sisig* and chicken pandan). Carlos took up a business course at Menlo College in San Francisco, but the majority of his electives were arts-related. Later he moved to New York to study art history.

But his outlook changed after 9/11. "I lived 15 minutes away from the World Trade Center. After the bombing, there was just random hate in the air. The entire city was torn between two sides. That's the main reason I went back home in 2002."

Carlos is not unfamiliar with tragedy. His was a traumatic childhood: his parents were murdered in front of him just 10 feet away. He was only 10 years old, and had to undergo therapy. "I had very little memory before that," he says. "I was raised by my grandparents. But being an orphan at an early age gave me a sense of independence." He displays no unease talking about his parents' tragic death. "It makes me more human."

When not preoccupied with his managerial duties, Carlos hits the beach and goes on marathon jet ski rides. He smiles, recalling one time when he zoomed all the way from Lucena to Boracay, a 300-km trip that took an entire day. The thrill of it was matched only by the agony of an extremely sore butt. "In such cases," he says with a smile, "petroleum jelly can be your best friend."

For now, Carlos expects saGuijo to maintain a high level of activity for the next few months. That the bar has become "trendy" is something that spooks him. "That's the scary part. We don't want to come off as anything. We just wanted to be a place for good music. It's always been about the music. We don't take ourselves too seriously. In the end, we're just fans." Q

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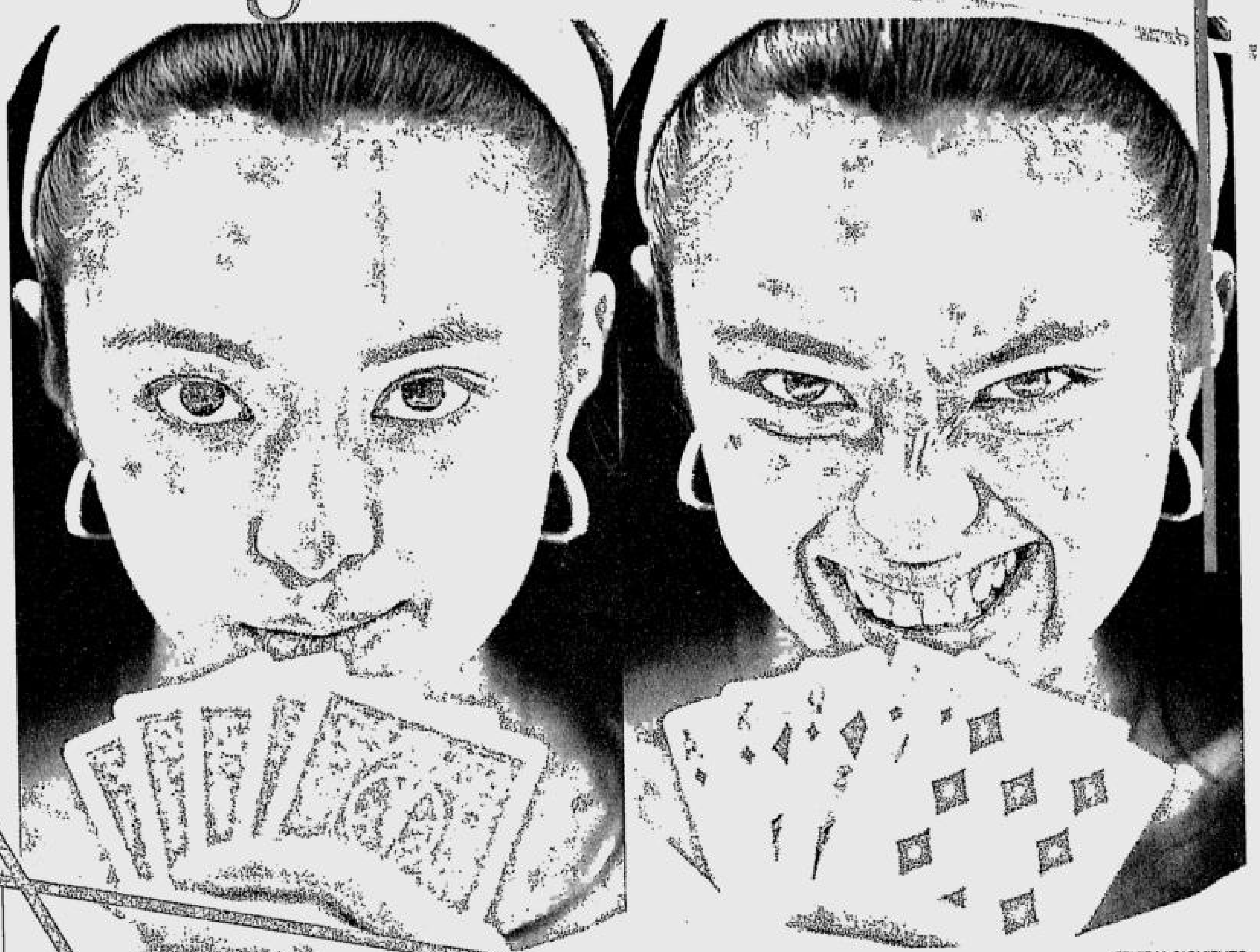
by Ruel S. De Vera

The Multi-Tasking Dream Girl Gets What She Wants

From San Miguel Girl to 'Travel Show' host, model and theater artist, Monica Llamas has a face that gets remembered—yet her biggest dream is to become president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

WHAT if you could really try everything you can think of trying? What if you could be a model and an actress and a career woman? What if you could do educational TV and reality TV? What if—imagine that—you could host a travel show, something that most people list as what they'd do if they could do anything they wanted?

Well, just ask Monica Llamas. With those fine, sharp cheekbones, that nicely tapering nose and those oversized, deep eyes, Monica Llamas has the kind of elfin features that aren't easily forgotten. Llamas has been, after all, the San Mig Girl, and her face has filled the giant Bayo billboards. Though she has been the subject of print and TV spots on and off for years, Llamas's profile now reaches critical mass with a gig hosting Studio 23's "The Travel Show," which airs Wednesday nights at 11:30 p.m.

And there's more life in that clicker yet. That's Llamas competing fiercely against show biz veterans on ABC-5's "Hollywood Dream," from which she was unfortunately eliminated last week. And should you wander over to the educational cable outlet Knowledge Channel, you'll even see Llamas in a carabao costume—yes, a carabao costume—as the titular, English-speaking Karen The Carabao on the show "Karen's World." It's a living, and a good one at that. "I like it the most when kids recognize me from 'Karen's World,'" she says with a laugh. "I'll be the very first one to admit I'm living a charmed life."

Fairie face

With the improbable precision of her fairie face and the slightness of her frame, she could have probably gotten by on her looks alone. Yet one conversation with the twentysomething Llamas, and one will see the casualness in her manner, the gawky sense of humor.

Hers is not the typical modeling experience, if there ever was such a thing. She has a serious passion for theater, having appeared in plays for Tanghalang Pilipino, Tanghalang Ateneo and the Metropolitan Theater Guild. Llamas is also part of the Kidlat Improv Comedy Group and the development officer for Everyman Presents, a group that uses theater to teach poetry and drama.

Indeed, Llamas is nothing like you'd expect. Her father Juan Miguel Llamas is a semi-retired real estate broker and her mother Ma. Cleofe Llamas runs a travel agency. A very dedicated student, she was an honor student at the Ateneo de Manila, where she graduated with an AB Communication degree in 1997. She's not even the only model in the family: that would be younger sister Jenny. Llamas began her pictorial career at a really young age. "My mom worked for KLM, and when they needed to do a print shoot, they figured they could just use me as the baby." A little later, Llamas appeared in ads for Presto, Swift's, and Mighty Kids. "That was my favorite," she says, "because I got shoes!"

There was even the time when Llamas accidentally became a Wrangler model at 11. "My mom is fond of raffles, and she submitted me and my sister's pictures in this raffle because she thought it would win her something. She didn't have her glasses on, so she didn't know it was for a Wrangler contest."

Corporate competitiveness comes naturally to Llamas. "Growing up, I've been told I was intense, perhaps because I always had a certain way of going about things and insisted on my own way." After graduation, she worked as Senior Account Executive for McCann-Erickson, handling Coca-Cola. After taping "Karen's World" (it's being rerun now), she worked for Ballet Philippines as Marketing Sales Director and helped out at Tanghalang Pilipino and the National Museum.

Perhaps the time she really caught the public's eye was during her turn as the San Mig Girl in the "Homeboys" San Miguel ad, which features the APO Hiking Society and the Eraserheads. "I was thrilled because they were great musicians," she explains. "Moreover, the fee I got for that gig paid for my backpacking trip to Europe after college. I was pretty cool." Aside from headlining the Bayo and San Mig campaigns, she's appeared in Vaseline, Smart, Piattos, Stress Tabs and McDonald's ads.

Other things

Of course, she seemed to vanish between modeling appearances, though the explanation is pretty simple: She was working and trying other things. "Commercial modeling is fun, but it's not my main focus." Aside from the corporate events, she also hosted shows like "Animal X" and "The Men's Room." Before she did the whole reality TV thing, she had a part in the Star Cinema film "BCUZ of U." She's even written for Cosmopolitan Philippines and she's also sung in a band, just in case you were wondering. She's also learning to dance the flamenco. Seriously.

The decision to jump from the corporate universe back into the limelight was one she did not take lightly: It simply was time for it. Right now, "The Travel Show" is keeping her busy. It was, like many things in her life, she says a happy accident. While walking through the mall, she bumped into a former schoolmate who was looking for an on-cam talent for the travel show he was producing for Studio 23. "I feel very fortunate to have this job," she says. "Although I've traveled around the world, I really haven't seen the Philippines until now. Our country is really beautiful, and it's a pity that the problems happening in the Metro are making people hate the country. Manila is not the Philippines." And the role as winsome wandering wonder fits her to a T: "My wanderlust started early, since my mother worked in the travel industry. We were fortunate enough to travel the world at a young age. I was exposed to different cultures, helping me broaden my horizons."

Startups

Aside from attracting more viewers and having them see the manifold attractions of the Philippines, Llamas hopes to do more plays and maybe even a movie or two. She hopes that Everyman Presents will prosper. "I'm not involved in any stage productions right now, partly because I haven't auditioned in a while and partly because I really want to concentrate on 'The Travel Show' and Everyman Presents since these are both in the startup phase."

But of all the things she still wants, perhaps the most surprising gig she wants is to be president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. "The CCP experience was fantastic," she recalls. "I had first-hand exposure to Filipino artistry. I saw the plight of our artists. These artists deserve much more recognition than what they're getting now. I hope to be able to give back to them one day."

In the meantime, hers is a face and a presence that viewers and readers and everyone else should get used to. She's going to do what she wants, and do what's necessary to earn that privilege. "I liken myself to a cat with many lives," Llamas says. "I took the long route to get to where I am now." And what does Monica Llamas do now? Anything she wants.

Counting

...from page 8

was that I didn't want to die."

Like most stricken mothers, her immediate thought centered on her children, then aged 14, 10, 8 and 5, whom she had left home in the Philippines. "One of the biggest challenges in having cancer was dealing with fear, the uncertainty of not knowing if I'd make it and see my children again. When you have a life-threatening disease, you're not in control," she says. "And the uncertainties are compounded by decisions you have to make as you go along." To cope with her fears, Laurel tried to get all the information she could about cancer from the internet and everywhere else. "I wanted to know what to expect so I could face them."

Among the side effects and complications of treatment, she volunteers, was a changed body image and altered sexuality. Aside from decreased sexual desire and energy, she had insomnia, fatigue and memory problems. After treatment, says Laurel, it would normally take one to two years before survivors return to normal physical function and emotional equilibrium. But some problems could interfere with that process, she adds. "Interpersonal relations could be affected because the patient experiences feelings of anger, withdrawal, failure to communicate, and so on. There is a revival of feelings of dependence and failing to meet expectations. The person feels personally defective and acts as a victim." Counseling, she suggests, can help strengthen personality resources. And so can holding the patient close and talking to them. "It's alright to cry in front of them," she says, addressing a common fear that has prevented people from visiting cancer-stricken friends and family. "But at the same time, reassure patients of their eventual recovery, of how things will get better."

In her case, getting physical and keeping busy helped a lot, says Laurel. Working out enabled her body to take the assault of chemotherapy, she adds. "I had to turn obstacles into opportuni

To page 7

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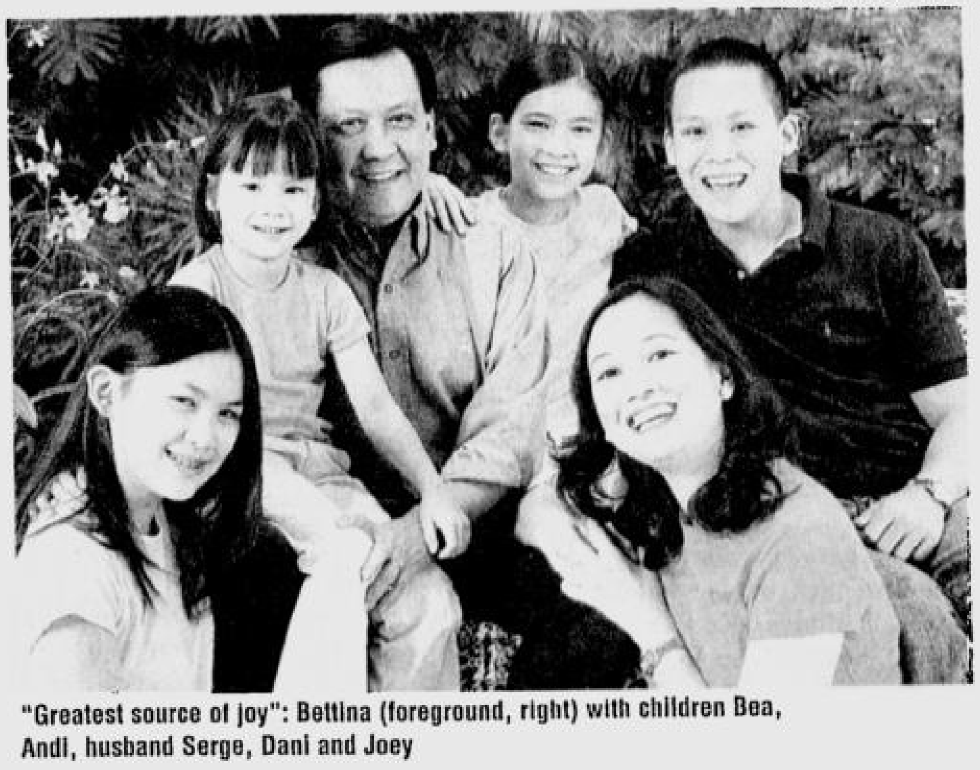


"Greatest source of joy": Bettina (foreground, right) with children Bea, Andi, husband Serge, Dani and Joey

Counting

...from page 6

ties, so I went to the gym three times a week to remain fit. I worked out even while having chemo, I learned to play squash, climbed mountains till I reached the summit, biked, swam. When I got pangs of depression, my brother Cocoy would always remind me to sing. My mom reminded me to count my blessings and my sister Suzie taught me to go with the flow, to take things one step at a time."

She also learned to step out of herself and reach out to others, adds Laurel. "When I was having radiation, I volunteered and worked for a nun in Nativity School. I also sang in their choir and painted."

Overall, adds Laurel, her bout with cancer has been a "chastening and humbling experience. We get so caught up in our daily existence that we take so many things for granted. When I was sick, I appreciated the beauty of the day, the triumph of every waking moment. I appreciate my family for being there in their own way to touch me. I've learned too that when it comes to your health, you can't cut corners. I've also become less concerned about my body image, losing my hair and my looks. Let people love me for what I am, I have more important things to worry about than my appearance."

High risk case

Still considered a high risk case, Laurel must continue to take hormonal treatments for the next five years. She also plans to stick to the healthy habits she's developed after diagnosis: "That means a high fiber, low-fat, fruit and vegetable-rich diet, exercise, weight control, avoiding excessive alcohol intake and being happy. That's not been proven to help breast cancer, but it improves life in general," she says.

IN Bettina Osmeña's case, early detection made all the difference. On the urging of her close friend Marisette Galang, who had battled breast cancer and lost, she diligently went for her yearly mammograms. "I am also the world's greatest hypochondriac," she adds.

Although she lost a sister to brain tumor, there was no history of breast cancer in her immediate family, and she was not prepared for the diagnosis of DCIS—Ductal Carcinoma In Situ—a non invasive type of cancer confined to the ducts.

"I had my annual mammogram on March 18, 2003," recounts Osmeña. Curious about the results, she called up her doctor days later and requested for a return call. "I was shopping in Rustan's when she called me back, and she was asking me questions like, do you have breast cancer in your family? Then she tells me I need a biopsy and that she would hook me up with Dr. Diana Cua. I know Dr. Cua is a breast surgeon for cancer. I could not believe what I was hearing."

Shocked, she burst out crying and stormed out of Rustan's. "I called my mom and my husband and was so distressed about the whole thing. It happened to be a Friday and I could not see Dr. Cua until Monday. It was the longest and most depressing weekend. I really thought I was going to die. I was leaving for Australia and New Zealand with my family in a couple of days and I was ready to call my trip off."

Advised by Dr. Cua to go for the stereotactic biopsy which was not done here in the Philippines, Osmeña promply made an appointment with Stanford Hospital for a medical consultation in early May. In the meantime, there was that family trip to Down Under. "My husband and I did not want to disappoint the children and make them worry over something we ourselves were not sure of."

'Go for it!'

Osmeña, 45, was properly diagnosed on May 9, 2003 and had a lumpectomy exactly a month later. "Unfortunately the margins were not clean after the lumpectomy and I was told I needed a mastectomy to be very sure," she recounts. "Marisette Galang was still alive then and was being treated at Stanford at that time. She jumped on me and said , 'Go for it!'"

Initially, she hesitated, confesses Osmeña. "I decided to go for a second and a third opinion and all the doctors concurred that I definitely needed it since my cancer was high grade. My husband was with me when the doctor broke the news and he gave me the biggest hug. He was so supportive and was in fact getting irritated at why I had to seek a second and third opinion. He told me to just do it. But I was freaking out at the thought of having a mastectomy. I wanted to try to save my breast because of my own vanity. After the doctors' opinions came in, I calmly took it in and looked for a reconstructive surgeon."

Luckily for Osmeña, she did not have to go through chemotherapy or radiation after her mastectomy. "Early detection is the best cure," she muses, adding that her mantra has become, "Have an annual mammo."

The experience has definitely changed her, she reveals. "It taught me that life is too precious. You can never tell what will happen. My husband is 17 years older, and simple logic dictates that I am likely to outlive him. And yet I got cancer and he never did in spite of his two-pack-a-day smoking habit. I relish my moments with my family more. It's my greatest source of joy and support," says this mother of a 17-year-old lad and three girls aged 14, 11, and 6. "I try to seek more meaningful ways to live my life. God gave me a blessed life," she adds.

That may be an understatement. By her own admission, she has an "elite background," being related on her father's side to the Lopezes of Meralco, ABS-CBN, Benpres Holdings, Rockwell, and other businesses. Her grandfather on her mother's side is Justice Manuel Mejia, says Osmeña, the eldest in a brood of four. She met her husband in San Francisco 21 years ago, she says, adding that she knew right away that he was the man for her. "His brilliance was most impressive but it also helps that he is a very attractive man with a one-of-a-kind strong personality. He's my best friend and remains my lover boy."

More prayerful

But cancer has left her less materialistic, says Osmeña. "I became more prayerful and I do not beat around the bush anymore. I don't want to waste time. I decided to cut loose from people who will not contribute anything positive to my life. My priorities and values are the same but my faith has definitely been strengthened."

Like Laurel, Osmeña decided to become a member of I Can Serve, a group dedicated to inspiring women with more information on breast health and breast cancer. The Foundation has at least 80 members in its e-group and individual members from different cancer support groups.

Says Osmeña: "As the saying goes, to whom much is given, much is expected. It is my way of giving back. However, I am the one who is gaining from this group. The members of this group have gone through so much more. I am such a babe in the wood compared to them. I salute this great women for their courage. They are everyday heroines."

Having a support group is very important, she adds. "You are dealing with people who have been there who can reassure you that in spite of the hardship, this will also come to pass. The members of I Can Serve have been inspiring models."

Laurel confirms that. "The family is the best support system one can have, but for those who don't have families, having other people to talk to can help a patient cope. One thing you realize when you're sick is that you aren't the only person who need support. Sometimes you have to go out of yourself and support others."

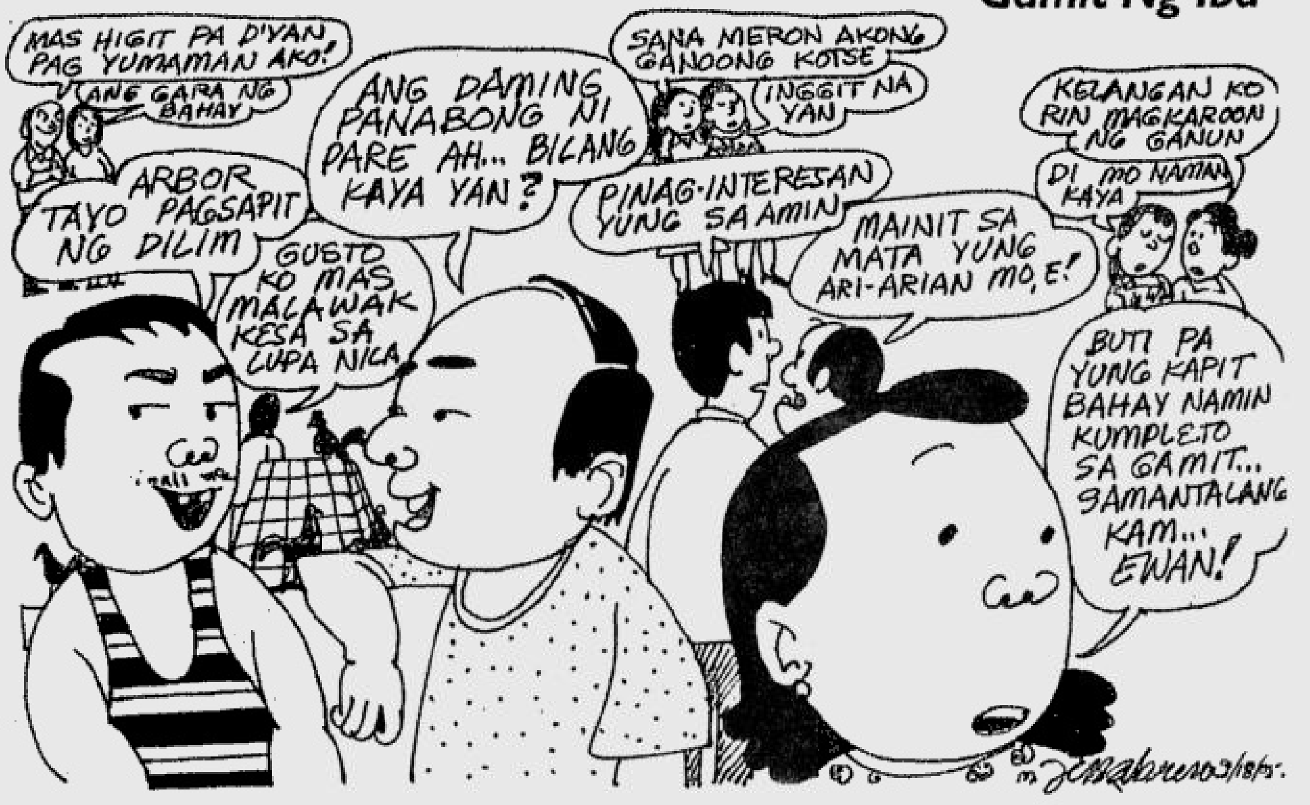
Finding a purpose outside one's self is one blessing that cancer has given her, says Laurel who, along with Osmeña and other members of I Can Serve have organized a day-long forum called Silver Linings on Sept. 25 at Edsa Shangri-La, a gathering of cancer survivors from all over the country.

As Laurel puts it so well, "Cancer does not have to be a death sentence, It can in fact be a route to a second life, an inner and better life." Q

Topics to be discussed by survivors, cancer specialists and surgeons at the Silver Linings forum include "Lifestyle After Cancer," "Eating Healthy," "Look Good, Feel Good," and "Healing Through Art and Music." For inquiries, please call 687-3942 or 0916-4257513

Pinoy Nga!

Pagnanasa Sa Gamit Ng Iba


MAS HIGIT PA D'YAN PAG YUMAMAN AKO!
ANG GARA NG BAHAY
ARBOR TAYO PAGSAPIT NG DILIM
ANG DAMING PANABONG NI PARE AH... BILANG KAYA YAN?
GUSTO KO MAS MALAWAK KESA SA LUPA NILA
SANA MERON AKONG GANOONG KOTSE
INGGIT NA YAN
PINAG-INTERESAN YUNG SA AMIN
MAINIT SA MATA YUNG ARI-ARIAN MO, E!
KELANGAN KO RIN MAGKAROON NG GANUN
DI MO NAMAN KAYA
BUTI PA YUNG KAPIT BAHAY NAMIN KUMPLETO SA GAMIT... SAMANTALANG KAMI... EWAN!

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

LoveNotes

...from page 4

tas," *a second choice, just the next best girl for him. Until when will I feel this insecurity? What's the best thing for me to do now?*

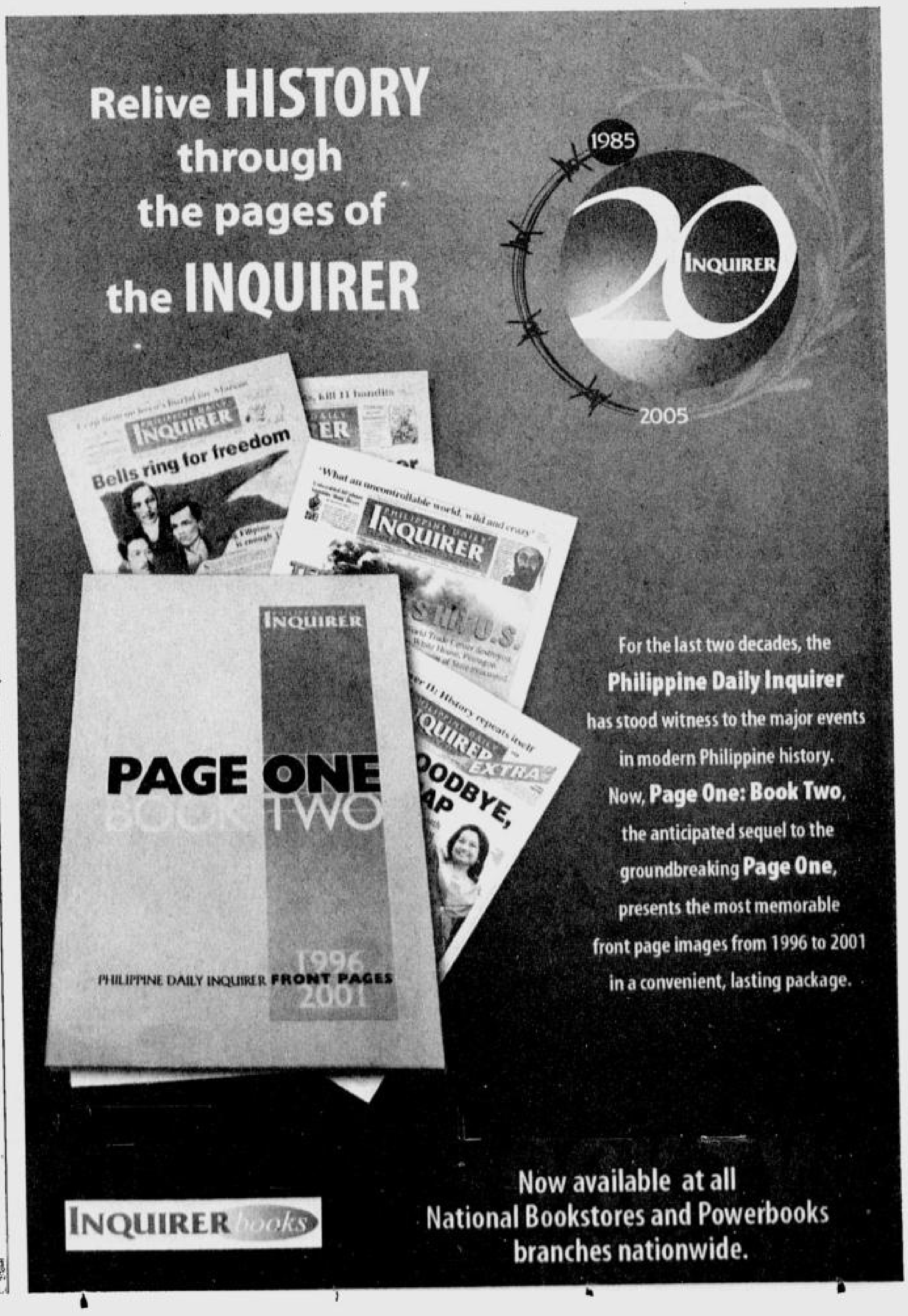
Jen

Dear Jen,

It seems to me that you married a man whom you love more than he loves you. This is not unusual. All relationships have a different mix of affection. There is usually one who loves the other slightly more. I don't see anything wrong with this. What I am worried about are the wishful thoughts that occupy your mind. The fact that you are feeling sorry for yourself and wondering what life could have been had you allowed yourself to love someone else reveals a certain degree of remorse.

A lot of women feel the way you do, Jen. I believe that the best way to lose a woman is to take her for granted and make her feel that she is unimportant and unloved. Unfortunately, a lot of men don't realize this until it's almost too late. Jen, you have to understand that it is unhealthy to still think about what life could have been with other men . You have to stop thinking that Vince married you although he still loves his ex girlfriend. We have to remember that marriage closes the door on the past and builds a new life on the present.

The best thing to do now is remove all ill thoughts that make you feel miserable. Focus on your family. You have a beautiful princess to nurture and take care of. Jen, even if you feel like giving up, never tire of showing your husband that you love him. Communication is the key to the success of most marriages. It has been said that unless we can honestly say what we feel, good or bad, to the people we love, we cannot truly say that we are one . Make Vince understand what you are going through. Tell him how you feel. If he loves you , he wouldn't get mad. He would understand why you feel that way and sincerely do something about it . Give him the chance to prove his love for you and help him show it. Jen , there may be times when we feel like we married the wrong person or we could have had a better life with someone else. But let us always remember that if we had married that person because of love, then the real measure of it would be in our ability to continue to love that person even when we can find no reason to love anymore. Q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Survivors' Tales

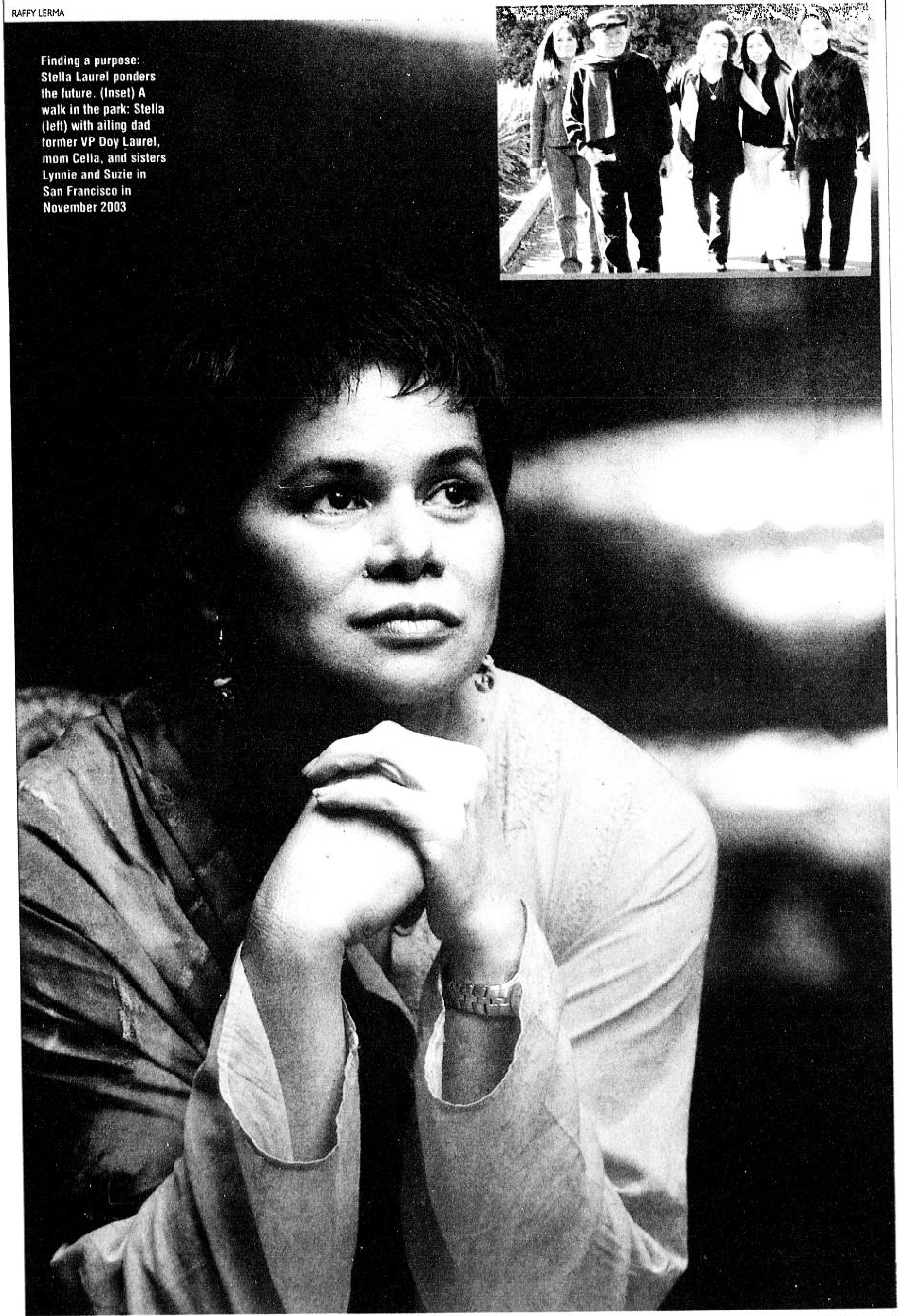
by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Counting Their Blessings in the Face of the Big C

They belong to two of the country's most prominent families, but both Bettina Osmeña and Stella Laurel have come to realize that when it comes to cancer, everybody is fair game. Now they're spreading the word that suffering does have a silver lining

Lucky: Bettina Osmeña's mantra has become "Have an annual mammo"

RAFFY LERMA



Finding a purpose: Stella Laurel ponders the future. (Inset) A walk in the park: Stella (left) with ailing dad former VP Doy Laurel, mom Celia, and sisters Lynnie and Suzie in San Francisco in November 2003

"CANCER is so relentless, it spares no one," says cancer patient Stella Laurel, the sixth of eight children of the late Vice President Salvador Laurel. "Rich or poor, no one is immune."

The disease can strike anybody at anytime, agrees Bettina Osmeña, a granddaughter of former Vice President Fernando Lopez. And yet, she qualifies, cancer can be even more cruel to those who have less in life. "I've been so lucky to have had the best medical treatment without worrying about costs because I have medical insurance," she adds. "But imagine the stress of coping with the disease and worrying about funds. I am so exposed to this. My husband gets so many letters on a daily basis from people seeking his help," she says of Serge Osmeña of the wealthy and powerful political clan of Cebu, whose life and daring escape with Geny Lopez from the Marcos jail in the '70s was capsulized in the movie, "*Eskapo!*"

Daunting prospect

Indeed, treating cancer, the number 1 killer of women in the Philippines, can be a daunting prospect. As many as 80 percent of cancer patients do not finish their treatment because it is so expensive, says Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, president and founder of I Can Serve Foundation, an advocacy and information group on breast cancer. A cycle of chemotherapy can cost from P6,000 to P200,000 and a patient usually undergoes six cycles. Depending on what stage it is discovered, cancer might involve major surgery, radiation, reconstruction, continuous medication and other forms of healing and rehabilitation. Even preventive care and monitoring such as a mammogram can cost up to P3,000. For a lot of patients, battling cancer also means taking a break from one's job and losing one's income just when it is most needed.

"That's why the government should pitch in instead of leaving it to individuals and private groups to cope with all that cost," says Laurel, who knows how it feels to race against the insidious disease while scrounging for funds. "My father had just died after eight months of battling lymphoma at the Stanford Cancer Center in San Francisco," she recalls. She was still in the US when she was diagnosed with "stage 3 multi-centric invasive ductal carcinoma in situ," a complex and aggressive form of breast cancer that needed immediate chemotherapy, mastectomy and radiation. "Our family's resources were drained and there I was, in the same medical facility, with no medical insurance and a case described as urgent." With no other recourse, Laurel lined up in one of the breast cancer programs in the area with her pathology report. A day or so later, she got a call saying she was eligible for assistance, a virtual miracle, she now describes. In all, she endured 18 cycles of chemotherapy over nine months and a modified radical mastectomy.

Invincible

Discovering she had cancer came as a shock to this 45-year-old mother of four who was a fulltime homemaker. Although an aunt had ovarian cancer, eldest sister Suzie is a breast cancer survivor and her dad had prostate cancer before he contracted lymphoma, Laurel never imagined herself a candidate for the disease. "I was very athletic and I thought I was invincible. Getting sick was the farthest thing from my mind." Her most immediate concern was taking care of her ailing father, whom she had worshipped since she was three. "We were taking turns caring for him," she says of her siblings. " Cocoy and I were the last to do so because we were making a documentary on his life, hoping he'd get to see it before he passed on."

It was only after her father died on January 27, 2004 that Laurel found time to seek medical attention for the persistent itching in and on her left breast that later resulted in a retracted nipple. That was when she was told that cancer had lodged in her cells the past four years. "I didn't have yearly mammograms so I didn't find out early enough," she says ruefully.

The diagnosis left her numb. "I haven't had time to mourn my father's loss, my life was falling apart, and then I discovered I have cancer. Everything was happening at the same time. My life was in turmoil," recounts Laurel. "All I knew

To page 6